THURSDAY
October 16, 2025

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
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RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945

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'NATIONAL SECURITY'

Indian-origin former official arrested in U.S.

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CARDIAC ARREST

Ex-Kenya PM Raila Odinga dies in Kerala

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Dozens killed in Pak.-Afghan clashes

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DATA POINT

West Bengal's conviction rate abysmally low

Poor record in settling cases against women

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MEGA EVENT

Ahmedabad set to host the 2030 CWG

SPORT » PAGE 15

NEARBY

Priyank Kharge posts video of threat call

BENGALURU
A day after Priyank Kharge said he had been "receiving threat calls" for demanding a ban on th RSS and its activities on government properties, he posted a video on X where a man can be heard abusing the Minister in unparliamentary language. » PAGE 6

Surgeon held for murdering doctor wife

BENGALURU
The police have arrested a general surgeon on charges of murdering his wife by allegedly injecting a controlled anaesthetic agent in a bid to kill her and make it look like a natural death. » PAGE 2

Trade deficit widens 93% in Sept. as services slump

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

India's trade deficit grew 93% in September due to imports outpacing exports during the month. However, the data shows that for the first half of the financial year – April to September 2025, the trade deficit shrank by 2.3%.

Data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Wednesday showed that India's total exports stood at $67.2 billion in September 2025, up 0.8% over September 2024.

Total imports, on the other hand, grew 11.3% to $83.8 billion over the same period.

As a result, the trade deficit in September nearly doubled to $16.6 billion, compared to $8.6 billion in September 2024.

Goods exports grow

Notably, the relatively poor performance of the export sector was due to lower exports of services and not goods. India's goods exports grew 6.7% to $36.4 billion in September 2025 despite that being the first full month of 50% tariffs imposed by the U.S. on imports from India.

Services, which have so far bolstered India's export performance, saw exports shrinking 5.5% in September 2025 to $30.8 billion.

However, while the data shows that India's exports to the U.S. are indeed 13.4% higher in the cumulative April-September 2025 period than in the same period last year, they have been declining steadily over the last few months. That is, where India's exports to the U.S. stood at $8.8 billion in May 2025, they were valued at $5.5 billion in September 2025.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

Steady growth in **exports**

Merchandise and services exports together grew **4.45%** in April -September, outpacing import rise and narrowing the trade gap by **2.3%**

		April-September 2024-25 (US$ Billion)	April-September 2025-26 (US$ Billion)	Change in %
Merchandise	Exports	213.68	220.12	3.02
	Imports	358.85	375.11	4.53
Services*	Exports	182.03	193.18	6.12
	Imports	97.73	97.68	-0.05

*The latest data for services sector released by RBI is for August 2025. The data for September 2025 is an estimation

SOURCE: MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

SC eases ban, clears green fireworks in Delhi for Deepavali

Bench describes relaxation as a 'test case' to examine whether a carefully regulated framework could coexist with efforts to mitigate air pollution

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

Ahead of Deepavali, the Supreme Court on Wednesday relaxed the blanket ban on fireworks in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR) and allowed the sale of green fireworks approved by the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) and the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) from October 18 to 20.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai and Justice K. Vinod Chandran restricted their use to October 19 and 20, between 6 a.m. and 7 a.m., and 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.

The Bench described the relaxation as a "test case" to examine whether a carefully regulated framework could coexist with efforts to mitigate air pollution. It stressed that the measure was temporary and directed the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and respective State Pollution Control Boards to monitor air and water quality from October 14 to 25 and submit a report detailing the daily Air Quality Index.

"We have to take a balanced approach, taking into account the conflicting interests and permitting in moderation, while not compromising the environmental concerns arising," the Bench observed. It noted that a complete prohibition during the festive season had been counterproductive, resulting in the smuggling and use of conventional fireworks that were far more harmful than the green variants developed in recent years.

Referring to its 2018 judgment in *Arjun Gopal v. Union of India*, which first introduced the concept of green fireworks, the court observed that over the years, such fireworks had led to a significant reduction in emissions.

The court said that the Delhi government's order of October 14, 2024, imposing a year-long ban on the manufacture, sale, and use of fireworks, which was later extended across the NCR, merited reconsideration in light of cleaner and less harmful alternatives.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

Festive fare: Fireworks being sold in New Delhi on Wednesday after the court allowed their limited use. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

78 Maoists surrender in Chhattisgarh, say police

Shubhomoy Sikdar
Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
RAIPUR/MUMBAI

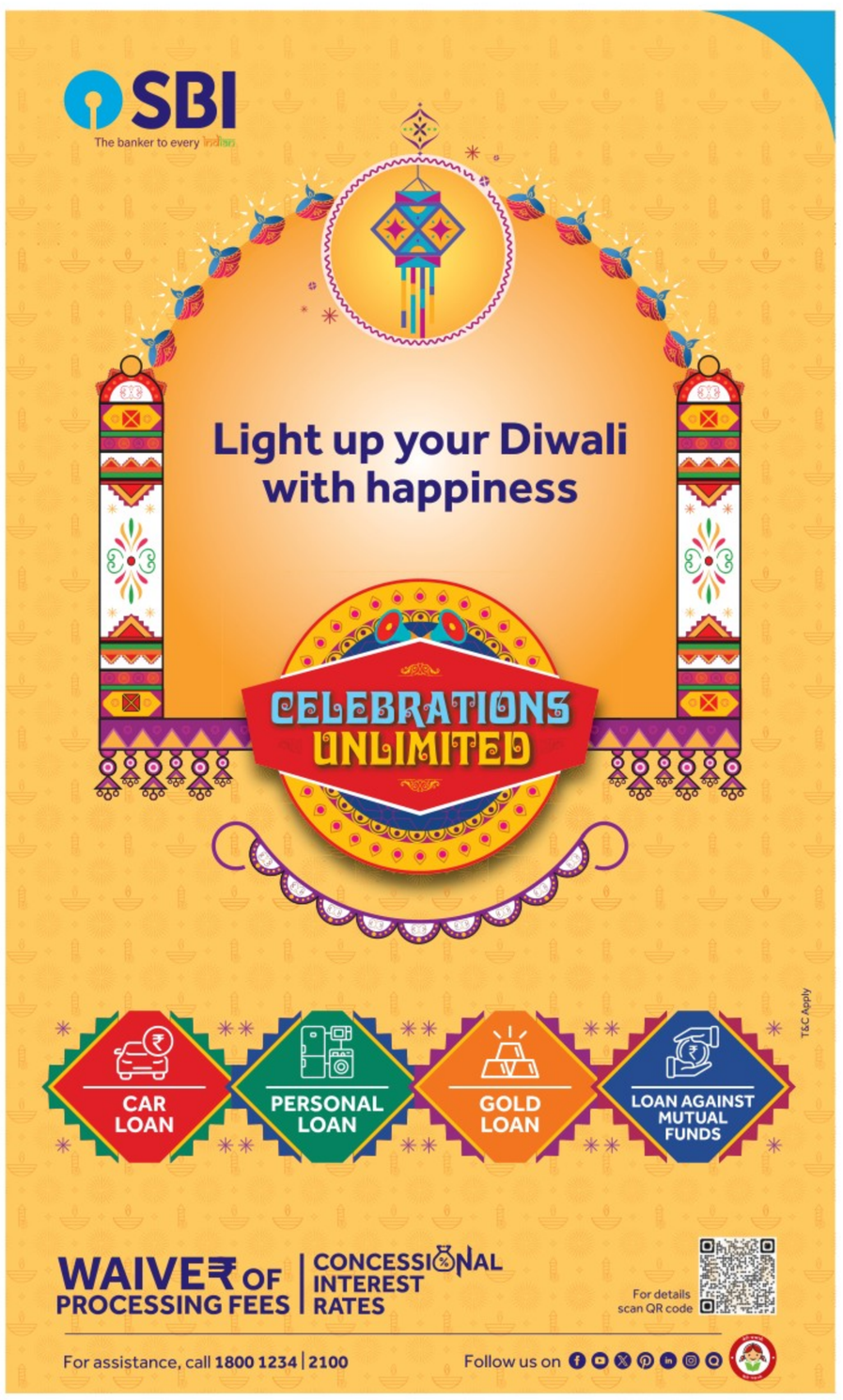
The Maoist movement suffered a major setback on Wednesday as 78 alleged cadres, including 43 women, surrendered across three districts in the Bastar region of Chhattisgarh, police officers said.

The mass surrender comes close on the heels of a similar surrender in Maharashtra, where Mallojula Venugopal Rao, alias Bhupati, a prominent central committee member of the CPI (Maoist), and 60 cadres laid down arms in Gadchiroli district on Tuesday. The formal surrender took place in the presence of Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Wednesday.

Fifty Maoists, 32 of them women, turned themselves in at a Border Security Force (BSF) camp in Kanker district of Chhattisgarh, said sources.

In Sukma, 27 active Maoists carrying a total bounty of ₹50 lakh surrendered before the police, said a senior officer. Among those who laid down arms are 17 men and 10 women. Two were described as "hardcore" in a police statement.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10



B-Khata properties to be converted into A-Khata

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Terming it a 'Deepavali gift' and the 'sixth guarantee,' Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar announced on Wednesday that the government will begin converting B-Khata properties into A-Khata from November 1. The campaign will go on for 100 days and is expected to benefit 15 lakh property owners in Bengaluru.

He also launched a new online system for B-Khata to A-Khata conversion at Vidhana Soudha.

"Bengaluru has around 25 lakh properties, of which 7.5 lakh already have A-Khata, another 7.5 lakh fall under B-Khata, and 7 lakh to 8 lakh remain unregularised," he said.

Applicants can register online by paying a ₹500 application fee, after which civic body officials will visit homes to provide services at the doorstep. Property owners will have to pay 5% of the guidance value as a fee to the government. "This amount will be used to provide civic amenities like electricity, water, and drainage in such layouts," he said.

FULL REPORT
» PAGE 4

For Ro-Ko, the future is the present

The 50-over World Cup might be 24 months away but that hasn't stopped speculations from abounding over whether Rohit and Kohli will be available for the flagship event; the three ODIs in Australia will provide a window to what is in store

AFP

R. Kaushik

Less than 24 hours after picking up his first trophy as the Test skipper, Shubman Gill embarked for Perth with the first batch of India's One-Day International side for an eight-match limited-overs side which will be watched with much interest.

India will challenge Australia in their backyard over three ODIs and five T20Is, in that order. The T20Is mark the first of 15 games for Suryakumar Yadav's men before they set off to defend the World Cup, won last June in Bridgetown, so they hold huge meaning not so much from a results perspective as the unit continuing to tick over like a well-oiled machine.

Normally, given the lack of context in bilateral 50-over fixtures, the ODIs would have been viewed as little more than a cash cow for the broadcasters, but that isn't the case this time around. If anything, the three ODIs will attract greater scrutiny than their shorter sibling, given the new dynamics in Indian cricket where the two immediate past captains will play for the first time under the boy-man who has been identified as the one to take the side into the future across all iterations. Virat Kohli ceased to be India's skipper more than three and a half years back, deposed as the 50-over leader between his resignations as the T20I and Test boss. Rohit Sharma, who had by then led both his franchise and his country to silverware, was the obvious choice to step into the Kohli shoes, and the Mumbaikar did a grand job in his short ride (three years) in charge.

Great run

Under him, India lost just one game in three successive ICC events; the one that got away (the 50-over final in November 2023) will hurt immensely, though stirring triumphs at the T20 World Cup (June 2024) and the Champions Trophy (March 2025) where India won all their 13 matches combined did come as a soothing balm of sorts.

There was little indication after Rohit held aloft the Champions Trophy in Dubai that a tectonic captaincy shift was imminent. The opener, who provided his side with blazing starts in almost all five games in the Emirates, was the Player of the Match in the final against New Zealand and followed it up with an excellent run for Mumbai Indians at IPL 2025. There were loud whispers that he would retire from Test cricket - which he did in May - after an ordinary season in which he topped 50 just once in eight matches and sat out the final Test against Australia in Sydney in January owing to poor form.

But having reiterated his desire to continue to play 50-over internationals, Rohit and millions of others who were taken in by his leadership style were convinced that at least for the immediate future, he would continue to helm the side.

Winds of change

The decision-makers, however, had other plans. While two years (the wait for the next 50-over World Cup) is a long preparatory period, they decided in their infinite wisdom that the passing of the ODI baton must happen here and now. Their thinking was perhaps influenced even more positively by Gill smashing 754 runs in his first series as Test captain, suggesting that the cares of captaincy didn't adversely impact his batting. Ajit Agarkar's selection panel, undoubtedly with inputs from head coach Gautam Gambhir, believed the period of transition needn't be put off, hence the elevation of Gill as ODI captain too, with Shreyas Iyer as his deputy.

By bringing Gill back into the T20I fold after 13 months and naming him the vice-captain for the Asia Cup in the UAE in September, the deciding authorities have placed implicit faith in the 26-year-old batter. On the face of it, it would seem as if Gill has way too much on his plate. India have been playing non-stop since the start of the Asia Cup, and will continue to do so until the T20 World Cup at home and in Sri Lanka in February-March. As the new ODI captain, Gill can't afford to sit out the 50-over skirmishes either. The T20s could be the stage that he can skip games once in a while, but because he hasn't played for the country a lot in that version in the last 15 months and because of the imminence of the World Cup, any rest will be token and sporadic. Gill has to segue seamlessly from T20I opener to Test captain and No. 4 when the South Africa series begins in Kolkata on November 14, five days after the T20I series ends in Australia. This is all too much for one man, is the popular refrain, though that's not something Agarkar and Gambhir are buying into.

Gill... the new ODI captain. VIJAY SONEJI

While how Gill, with his new-found responsibilities, goes in Australia will occupy much mind space, the greater focus will be on Rohit and Kohli. How Rohit, used to calling the shots with his unique brand of tough love, slips back into being just one of the boys remains to be seen. He has had a little bit of practice in that regard in recent times; two seasons back, he was replaced as Mumbai Indians captain by Hardik Pandya even though he had led the franchise to five IPL crowns. Maybe that experience will stand him in good stead Down Under, where he has a wonderful ODI record.

The 50-over World Cup might be 24 months away but that hasn't stopped speculations from abounding over whether Rohit and/or Kohli will be available for the flagship event. It's debatable if either of the stalwarts, let alone those who will decide their fate, is looking that far ahead. Their immediate goal will be to prove that being an international in just a solitary version, and that too the 50-over one which doesn't come as frequently as the other two, is no deterrent to consistent performances. Both are pedigreed batters who in their own contrasting ways have shored up the Indian batting for more than a decade. They are also proud warriors who must be stung by the recent developments - Rohit for being removed as captain, Kohli because of a huge dip in Test standards which certainly hastened his retirement - and therefore will be even more pumped up, if that is possible, to pull their weight in the team.

Hard yards

Speaking of weight, Rohit has shed quite a lot of that commodity since his last competitive fixture, towards the end of May in the IPL. Without the safety net of the captaincy, there is no guarantee that he will patrol solely the infield for the entire duration of a 50-over game. From time to time, he will have to do boundary-riding duties, and on the vast outfields in Australia, that will place unique demands. It's not that Rohit hasn't been asked to do that in the past, but he is 38 and hasn't patrolled the outfield regularly for a while now. The very fact that he has put in the hard yards - like he did after the 2011 World Cup slight, those close to him insist - at this stage of his career is proof enough that he isn't preparing to walk away from this all.

More than his fielding, though, it's his batting that will be the cynosure. Having espoused an aggressive, unselfish, team-first style and having led by example with punchy stroke-play in both white-ball formats, Rohit disassociated himself from the tall edifices that were once his calling card. The high-risk approach was great for the side when it came off, which it often did; it allowed those coming in after him to take a little time to settle in. But it also meant the man with three ODI double-hundreds and a joint-highest five T20I tons would not be able to add to that tally willy-nilly.

What's coming?

What role will he be entrusted with by Gill and Gambhir? Will they be content to let him set the tone at the beginning of the innings, or will they expect him to be a little more conservative and bat for as deep into a 50-over innings as possible? If it is the former, Rohit will not have to make a massive mental shift but if it is the latter, then he has a job on his hands.

Like Rohit, Kohli too had a terrific Champions Trophy. He made an unbeaten, match-winning (what's new, you say?) hundred against Pakistan and set up a tense semifinal chase against Australia with 84, his mastery of a run chase still undimmed and unparallelled. Kohli's cricket has been driven by intensity and inner fire; he is at his most destructive and influential when he is lifted by the scent of battle. It's impossible to envisage him going through the motions or playing at an intensity less than 100%, which is why he wasn't a great fan of playing practice matches against modest oppositions on tour. For him, like Rohit but for different reasons and with different degrees, it's the channelling of the inner, innate desire that holds the key.

Games of cricket, especially those of the 50-over breed, aren't won or lost by one or two individuals alone. India possess a crack bunch which will encounter another behemoth in a battle that promises to excite, entertain and enthral. But such is the magnetic pull of Kohli and Rohit that even though Gill's leadership style will grab some eyeballs, it is what this dynamic duo does with the bat that will keep millions glued to their television sets.

That's not to say that Rohit and Kohli's immediate future is directly linked to them making runs. One would like to believe that they have enough in the bank for three failures (assuming the worst) to usher them into the sunset, though stranger things have happened in the past and there have been several unexpected and unforeseen developments in Indian cricket in the last few weeks.

These three matches will, however, provide a window to what the immediate future - three ODIs each at home against South Africa and New Zealand - holds. As for the World Cup, what's the rush, right? Twenty-four months is a lifetime, an eternity.

THE GIST

- If anything, the three ODIs in Australia will attract greater scrutiny than their shorter sibling, given the new dynamics in Indian cricket where the two immediate past captains will play for the first time under the boy-man
- By bringing Gill back into the T20I fold after 13 months and naming him the vice-captain for the Asia Cup in the UAE in September, the deciding authorities have placed implicit faith in the 26-year-old batter
- Such is the magnetic pull of Kohli and Rohit that even though Gill's leadership style will grab some eyeballs, it is what this dynamic duo does with the bat that will keep millions glued to their television sets

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II FOR KARNATAKA, AT BENGALURU

BSNL Building, 4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road Bengaluru-560001

OA No. 1681/2024

BETWEEN:
M\s. Bank of Baroda
ZOSARB BRANCH
No.41/2, MG Rd, Vijaya Tower, Trinity Circle, 7th floor Bangalore - 560001.
....Applicant

AND:
M/s. I-Lifestyle and Textiles Pvt. Ltd. & Others
....Defendants

SUMMONS TO DEFT. No. 1 to 3 BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION ISSUED UNDER RULE-23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993

DEFENDANT NO.1:
M/s. I-Lifestyle and Textiles Pvt. Ltd.
Kalpatharu Farm Chikkasanne village, Pakya Gate, Devanahalli, Bangalore Rural - 562110

DEFENDANT NO.2:
Mr. Tarun Jain
S/o. Sri. Kewal Prakash Jain
No. F-13/3, Upper ground floor, Model Town Part-2, Near Naini Jheel, North West Delhi 110009

DEFENDANT NO.3:
Mrs. Shivani Jain
W/o. Sri.Tarun Jain
No. F-13/3, Upper ground floor, Model Town Part-2, Near Naini Jheel, North West Delhi 110009

WHEREAS the above-named Applicant has instituted the application U/S 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks & Financial Institutions Act, 1993, against the defendants for recovery of a sum of **Rs.11,90,80,035.17/-** (Rupees Eleven Crore Ninety lakhs Eighty thousand thirty five and seventeen paise only) as on **13.05.2024,** together with further cost and interest. You are hereby required to show cause within 30 days of the service of the summons or on **13/02/2026 10.30 A.M** in the forenoon in person or by Pleader/ Advocate duly instructed as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.

Take Notice that, in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this **06/09/2025 at Bengaluru**

Sd/- (Registrar)
Debts Recovery Tribunal-II, for Karnataka

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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. Y-E-29-2025-26-54
Dated : 07-10-2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Setting up of quick coach watering arrangements between Road No : 1 & 2 and Road No : 3 & 4 at Harihara. IRPSM ID : 14.03.53.25.3.52.006	Rs. 46,63,424.59

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs on 29-10-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, General / Mysuru
PUB/543/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr.Divisional Electrical Engineer/ TRD, North Western Railway, Bikaner for & on behalf of the president of India, invites E-tender for the following work. **1. Complete details of tenders can be seen on Website No : http://www.ireps. gov.in 2. Date & time of closing of e-tender: 04.11.2025** up to 15.00 hrs. **3. Date & time of opening of e-tender:** After 15.00 hrs. on **04.11.2025 Tender Notice No.** : 15-TRD-GSUBKN-E TENDER-25-26R **Name of work:** TRD modification work in c/w Provision of stabling lines, marshalling lines and sick/fit line, Development of Coaching Maintenance Facilities, High level Island Passenger platform & other passenger amenities between line no 09 & 10 and extension of platform no 06 at Hisar station of Bikaner Division. **Approx. Cost of the work (Rs.)** : Rs. 14,58,26,293.59 **EMD/SD (Rs.)** : Rs. 8,79,100.00

1321-DR/25

Please join us on /NWRailways NWRailways_

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients are desirous of purchasing all that piece and parcel of the Residential Vacant Site No.328, (formed in Sy.No.163/2) Property No.482/328 measuring 6001 Sq. Ft., the layout, formed by "AISHWARYA DEVELOPERS" named as "AISHWARYA RESIDENCY" situated at Doddajala Village, Jala Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk more fully described in the schedule below, from S**RI. VIVEK KRISHNAMURTHY** Aged about 45 years, Son of Sri. M.N. Krishna Murthy, & **SRI. MANJUNATH SHIVAYOGAPPA WARAD** Aged about 45 years Son of Sri. Shivayogappa Channabasappa Warad, (Owners);

Any person or persons having any claim of whatsoever kind, with regard to the schedule property or any portion thereof, may write to the undersigned within **fifteen (15) days** from the date of issuance of this notice with documentary evidence on which they are basing their claims with regard to the schedule property or any part thereof in any manner whatsoever, failing which may client shall proceed on that basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of converted residential vacant **Site No.328,** (formed in Sy.No.163/2) the property comes under Doddajala Village Panchayat Limits & Property No.482/328 totally measuring 6001 Sq.Ft., formed by **"AISHWARYA DEVELOPERS"** named as **"AISHWARYA RESIDENCY"** situated at **Doddajala Village, Jala Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore** measuring 6001Sq.Ft., and Bounded on:

East to West : (80'+98'.11") 2 Feet,
North to South : (43'.4"+105'.10")/2 Feet,
Total Measuring : 6001 Sq. Feet,
EAST BY : 30 Feet Road;
WEST BY : Site No.330 & Site No.331
NORTH BY : Site No.327
SOUTH By : 30 Feet Road;

B.V. Kiran Kumar & Associates,
BAL, LLB, MBL.
Advocate & Legal Consultants
#59, Money Point, Ground Floor, GF 2.1/2, K.H. Road, Bangalore – 560 027.
E-mail: bvkirankumar1979@gmail.com
Ph: +91 9845322316, 8762681009

DOCUMENTS LOST

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE PUBLIC that Rajendar Gopinath and Thankam Rajendar (owners), have irrecoverably lost the original Registered Sale Deed dated 21-07-2001 (Document No.1433/2001-02) for 20 guntas of farmland comprised in **Survey 57** of Melinayakarandahalli Village, Tubagere Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, with **Land ID 6250 2500 0114.** We have raised Complaint with Police on 23.11.2024 and have obtained lost report No.1349037/2024. We further submit that if the above document is found by any person, the same may be handed over to the undersigned. And, if any person or institution has any objection, interest, claim or charge in respect of the above title deed, by virtue of custody of the original or in any other capacity, such claim, objection or interest shall be intimated to me or to the undersigned **WITHIN 7 DAYS OF THIS NOTICE;** failing which, it shall be presumed that the property is free from all encumbrances or litigation.

Rajendar Gopinath
Mobile Number: 9449187568

Sworn To Before me
D.B.Ramesh Rashkar
Advocate & Notary
Govt. of India

Place : Bangalore
Date : 15-10-2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that our client intends to purchase **Site No.4,** bearing E-Aasthi Khatha Property No.4 and EPID No.8557409255 measuring East to West **40 feet** and North to South **57 feet,** totally measuring **2280 Square feet** along with a building standing thereon comprising of Ground and First floor having a built up area of 1679 Square feet situated at **IV Block, Kormangala, Bangalore,** and bounded on:

East : Site No.5,
West : Site No.3,
North : Site No.13 and,
South : Road,

from its owners **Mrs.Daksha K Vaishya wife of Mr.Kirtikumar Narayan Vaishya and Mr.Kirtikumar Narayan Vaishya son of Mr.Narayan A Vaishya.** It is further informed that the following originals pertaining to the aforementioned property are lost

1. Conditional Sale Deed dated 25.08.1982.
2. Possession Certificate executed by BDA.
3. License/Approved plan for construction issued by BDA.

Persons having or in possession of the aforementioned documents or having any right over the said property may lodge their objections/claims with documentary evidence within **10 days** from the date of this publication, to the undersigned.

K. V. Narendra & Associates,
Advocates and Legal Consultants,
No.557, 2nd Floor, 9th A Main, Indiranagar, Bangalore - 560038.
Ph: 9945109229 / 9591067392.

PRASAR BHARATI

(India's Public Service Broadcaster)
DOORDARSHAN KENDRA, REGIONAL NEWS UNIT, BENGALURU

Applications from eligible candidates are hereby invited for the posts mentioned below at Regional News Unit, Bengaluru on full time contract basis.

1) Anchor cum Correspondent (Grade - II) & (Grade - III)
2) Bulletin Editor 3) Copy Editor 4) Packaging Assistant
5) Content Executive

Details regarding the Category, Educational Qualification, Experience, Remuneration etc. are available at **https://prasarbharati.gov.in/pbvacancies/** The applications may be submittted through the weblink below: **https://avedan.prasarbharati.org/**

Sd/- Director (News)
Doordarshan Kendra, Bengaluru

Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports

State Youth Centre, Nrupathunga Road, Bangalore-560001.
Ph : 080-22215601 Fax : 080-22215602

No: DYES/KI-22/2025-26 **Dated: 14-10-2025**

NOTIFICATION

Subject: Regarding Selection of Swimming Sports person for Khelo India State Centre of Excellence

Sri Jayaprakash Narayan National Youth Traning Centre is on the look out for talented Swimming Sports person for Khelo India State Centre of Excellence, Vidyanagar, Bengaluru and the selection process will be held on 25.10.2025 and 26.10.2025. The eligible sports person can participate in the selection process.

The detailed circular of Eligibility and Criteria has been published in Youth Empowerment and Sports Department's website **dyes.karnataka.gov.in** and more details can be obtained during office hours. The Youth Empowerment and Sports department holds the right to withdraw the said advertisement without assigning any reasons.

Sd/- Commissioner
Dept. of Youth Empowerment and Sports
Bangalore

DIPR/CP/3281/AKAR/2025-26

BUSINESS CONNECT

A Business Initiative

Bhima Unveils "The Great Bhima Deepavali Festival" With Unmissable Offers This Festive Season

Bhima is making the Diwali celebrations this year grander with "The Great Bhima Deepavali Festival", offering irresistible deals and festive surprises. To add to the festive spirit, on purchase of diamonds, customers can get free gold and silver jewellery. These special offers are available from 22nd September to 26th October 2025. You can take advantage of these amazing deals by visiting your nearest Bhima store or by making your purchases online at bhimagold.com.This Deepavali, step into a world of sparkle, celebration, and timeless elegance with Bhima.

Food Corporation of India, Bengaluru Region, is observing the "Swachhata Pakhwada" (SHS) campaign.

Recently a walkathon was organized for all office officers and employees under the leadership of Sh. B.O.Maheshwarappa, GM (Region). During this "Swachhata Pakhwada", emphasis was placed on maintaining cleanliness and hygiene within the office premises. Special cleanliness drives was conducted in the office premises and surrounding areas. Activities included special cleanliness drives in and around the office premises, cleaning of public spaces like Dr. Rajkumar Park Jayanagar, Bengaluru, clearing old files and obsolete materials, medical health check-ups, and awareness programs about welfare schemes for sanitation workers.

Pai International Electronics Limited Unveils Its 220th Showroom in Mysore

Pai International Electronics, a leading brand in the electronics and home appliances sector, is delighted to announce the grand opening of its 220th showroom, located at MIG No. 36, Nrupathunga Road, J.T.K 1st Stage, Opposite Kuvempunagar Complex, Chamaraja Mohalla, Kuvempunagar, Mysore.The grand opening event was celebrated recently, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony by Real Star Mr. Upendra (Actor-Director-Producer), Mr. Rajkumar S. Pai (MD) said was delighted to inaugurate second showroom in Mysore, a city that has always been close to his hearts.Superstar Upendra shared his heartfelt connection with Pai International.

Jewels of India Exhibition Returns for its 27th Year, Featuring Over 100 Top Jewellers and a Chance to Win a Diamond Necklace

Recently the highly anticipated Jewels of India Exhibition, one of the nation's biggest jewellery expos opened its doors for its 27th edition from October 10th to 12th, 2025, at the prestigious Tripuravasini Palace grounds in Bengaluru. This year's exhibition was an unparalleled spectacle of opulence, bringing together over 100 top-notch jewellers from across India. Convenor Vikram Mehta launched a "Jewels of India Gold + Savings Plan". Jewels of India Convener VIkram Mehta spoke about getting top notch jewellers from across India and there has been an overwhelming response from the Karnataka and neighbouring states Andhra Pradesh and Tamilnadu. The highlight of the 27th-year edition event had over 100 top jewellers, wide range of gold, silver, and diamond jewellery, bespoke, unique, antique, and designer collections was inaugurated by Samantha Ruth Prabhu.

Titan marks 3rd major water security intervention in Tamil Nadu, revitalizes SIPCOT Hosur Lake

Titan Company Limited, under its Sustainability (Pragati) initiative, in collaboration with Hosur Municipal Corporation and SIPCOT, has successfully rejuvenated the SIPCOT Hosur Lake, transforming a crucial urban waterbody into a vibrant ecological and social asset.Mr C.K. Venkataraman, MD, Titan Company Limited,spoke about the commitment to sustainability and community welfare under the Pragati initiative. The rejuvenation celebration featured the formal handover of the project by Mr C.K. Venkataraman, to the Chief Guests, Hon'ble Mayor of Hosur City Municipal Corporation, S.A. Sathya and Commissioner of Hosur City Municipal Corporation, Md. Shabbir Alam, IAS. Titan Company is advancing holistic interventions that empower communities, revitalize natural water systems, and build resilient, thriving landscapes state-wide.

Senco Gold & Diamonds launches festive campaign with Kiara Advani for the launch of the 'Shagun Collection' this Dhanteras

This Dhanteras, Senco Gold & Diamonds, India's most trusted jewellery house, unveils the Shagun Collection – a carefully curated range of jewellery in yellow gold, diamond, antique, and polki, designed to add a meaningful touch to festive celebrations. Ms. Joita Sen, Director, Head of Marketing and Designs, Senco Gold & Diamonds, spoke about the meaningful gestures that make this festival so special. Adding to the festive cheer are exciting offers that make this season even more rewarding. jewellery isn't just adornment; it's a way to share joy and create lasting connections. Through the festive campaign with Kiara Advani, Senco Gold & Diamonds reminds us that jewellery isn't just adornment; it's a way to share joy and create lasting connections. The collection is now available at all Senco stores and on the official website: www.sencogoldanddiamonds.com

Air India Express launches Brand campaign across South Asia, The Middle East & South-East Asia network – 'Xplore More, Xpress More'

Air India Express, India's first international value carrier, has unveiled one of the Indian aviation industry's largest brand campaigns - 'Xplore More, Xpress More,' an ode to the transformative power of travel that makes every trip a journey of memorable moments and meaningful connections. Conceptualised in collaboration with the Omnicom Advertising Group (OAG), and directed by acclaimed filmmaker Dibakar Banerjee, the campaign reflects Air India Express' evolving brand narrative, which is rooted in the warmth of Indian hospitality, authentic experiences, and meaningful travel. Siddhartha Butalia, CMO, Air India Express, saidthey have established themselves as a leading airline for the guests. Air India Express transforms the act of flying into something deeper: an experience that connects, inspires, and leaves an impression long after you land. For more on the campaign, visit www.youtube.com/@AirIndiaX

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

(Wholly Owned by Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
CIN - U04010KA2002SGC030438

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal)

BESCOM invites tenders through KPP Portal:

(1) Enquiry No./Indent No. BESCOM/2025-26/IND0174 for Supply of 3Pin Spl cross Arms (GI) -8000 Nos.
(2) Enquiry No./Indent No. BESCOM/2025-26/IND0176 for Supply of LT 2Pin cross Arms (GI) -25000 Nos.

Bid Documents available from **16.10.2025.** Last date for submission of Bids : **31.10.2025 17:15 Hrs.** Opening of Bid Document : **03.11.2025 11:00 Hrs.**

The Tender can be obtained through KPP Portal website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Aspiring Bidders need to register on KPP portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with KPPP help desk contact numbers +91-8046010000, +91-8068948777 or e-mail at **support@eprochelpdesk.com.**

Sd/-
Chief General Manager (Ele.,), Procurement, BESCOM

For electricity related complaints call : 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

Government of Jharkhand
Directorate of Food & Consumer Affairs
3rd Floor, JSFC Bhawan, Kadru, Ranchi -834002

Letter No.-kha.up.ni.-24/chini-04/2024-**1693**
Date : 10-10-2025

Tender Cancellation Notice

Tender Reference No. Kha.Up.Ni.-24(Chi.Vi.Yo.)-04/2024-1372 Dated:20-08-2025 (GeM Bid No. – GEM/2025/B/6598366 Dt. 22-08-2025) for supply of Free Flow White Crystal Sugar (Grade-S-30/M-30) (As per FSSAI Notms) for 4th Quarter (January 2025 to March 2025) pf Financial Year 2024-25 through e-Tender Followed by e-Reverse Auction on Gem Platform with reference to Directorate Letter No. -1395 Dated 22-08-2025 PR No. 360201 is hereby cancelled on account of unavoidable reasons.

Fresh tender will be invited soon.

Sd/-
Director
(Directorate of Food & Consumer Affairs)

PR 364223 Directorate of Food and Consumer Affairs (25-26)_D

SREENIDHI SOUHARDA SAHAKARI BANK NIYAMITHA

Head Office: No.113, R.V. Road, V.V. Puram, Bengaluru – 560 004
Phone No.080-26601152/153,9845753124, E-mail:sssbn@sreenidhibank.com
PHONE NO.080-28435152/153, 9740498444, E-mail:sssbn4rgh@sreenidhibank.com

PUBLIC NOTICE - POSSESSION NOTICE
APPENDIX - IV, (See Rule 8(1)) r/w Sec. 13(4)(a)

Smt.Vishalakshi.R

Sri. Mani.M

Smt. Nagarathnamma

Smt. Pavithra

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **M/s. Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha,** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (Central Act No.54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12),13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice dated 07/08/2025 calling upon the Borrowers **1.Smt.Vishalakshi.R** W/o Mani .M, **2. Sri. Mani.M** S/o Late. Mahadeva Gowda, **3. Smt. Nagarathnamma** W/o Late. Mahadeva Gowda and **4. Smt. Pavithra** W/o Mahadeva all are Residing at No..29, Saluhunse, Near Anjaneya Temple, Udayapura Post, Kanakapura. Main Road, Bangalore-560082 demanding to repay the amount of **Rs.10,94,428/- (Rupees Ten Lakhs Ninety Four Thousand Four Hundred and Twenty Eight)** only together with Interest and Costs thereon, being the loan amount due by them, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers had failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property mortgaged to the Bank and described in Schedule herein below, together with all rights to transfer by way of Lease, assignment or sale for realizing the above mentioned amounts (Secured Asset), in exercise of the powers conferred on them under Section 13(4)(a) of the said Act read with Rule-8 of the said Rules on this **15th day of October 2025.**

The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the said property and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of **M/s. Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha** for a sum **Rs.11,24,370/- (Rupees Eleven Lakhs Twenty Four Thousand Three Hundred and Seventy only)** as on 15/10/2025 together with interest and costs thereon.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing No.5, carved out in land bearing Sy No.46, E-Katha No.15020030010080019 9 of Kaggalipura Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru. Measuring East to West : 30-0 feet and North to South: 20-0 feet totally measuring an extent of 600 Sq.ft and consisting of Ground and First Floor with RCC Roofing, Vertified Flooring, Mathi/Honne Doors and Windows and bounded on the East By: Road ; West By: Road North By: Site No.06 and South By :Site No.04.

Date : 15.10.2025
Place: Bangalore

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha

SREENIDHI SOUHARDA SAHAKARI BANK NIYAMITHA

 # 113, R. V. Road, V. V. Puram, Bangalore- 560 004
Phone: 080-25401160-161, 9606018413,
E-mail: sssbn3mrh@sreenidhibank.com

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Sale of Immovable Property Mortgaged to Bank Under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.
(No 54 of 2002) -- SARFAESI ACT

Smt.Kusuma

Sri.Praveen Kumar.D

Whereas **Sri.Praveen Kumar.D,** S/o.David, aged about 37 years, residing at No.289, 1st Cross, MVJ College, AKG Colony, K.Channasandra, Kadugodi, Bangalore-560067 **and Smt.Kusuma** W/o. Late.Madhu, residing at No.171, 2nd Cross, Opp.to MVJ College, AKG Colony, Kadugodi, Bangalore- 560067, they have borrowed monies from **Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha, Marathahalli Branch, #95/3, Kote N.C.P.R Tower Building, Outer Ring Road, Opp. Jeevika Hospital, Doddanekkundi, Bangalore – 560037** and they owe a sum of **Rs.19,22,713/- Rupees (Nineteen Lakhs Twenty Two Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirteen) only of Sri.Praveen Kumar.D and Rs.25,96,460/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakh Ninety Six Thousand Four Hundred and Sixty) only of Smt.Kusuma with further interest @ 12.50 % and 11.00% respectively as on 15/10/2025** and costs. Whereas the Authorised Officer of the Bank has issued notice under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and thereafter has taken possession of the property owned by **Smt.Kusuma W/o. Late.Madhu, residing at No.171, 2nd Cross, Opp.to MVJ College, AKG Colony, Kadugodi, Bangalore- 560067** mortgaged to the Bank and has decided to sell the property, described in Schedule "A" herein below, on 'AS IS WHERE IS BASIS' under rules 8 & 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

DETAILS OF SALE:

Place of Auction: Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha,#113, R.V.Road, V.V. Puram, Bangalore-560004.
Date/Day & time of auction: 17/11/2025 (Monday) At 11:30 AM.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHEDULE PROPERTY:

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Municipal No.178, BBMP Katha No.662/115/178, Carved out of Sy.No.115, situated at A.K.Gopalan Colony, Channasandra Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Measuring East to West:37-0 feet, North to South: 26-0 feet, totally measuring an extent of 962 Sq.ft, consist of Ground, First Floor and Second Floor and bounded on the East by:Road, West by:Property of Balu, North by: Property of Anusuya, South by:Masjid.

Reserve Price: Rs.85,00,000/- (Rupees Eighty Five Lakhs) Only

Terms & Conditions of Auction:

(1) For participating in the auction, the intending bidders have to deposit 10% of reserve price of the property by Bankers cheque/Demand Draft favouring **The Authorised Officer, Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha,** Payable at Bangalore which is refundable, if the bid is not successful.

(2) The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the bid amount immediately on the sale being knocked down in his favour and the balance within 15 days. Payment to be made only in the form of cash or bankers cheque/ DD drawn in favour of **"TheAuthorised Officer, Sreenidhi SouhardaSahakari Bank Niyamitha".**

(3) In case the successful bidder fails to deposit 25% of bid amount immediately on the sale being knocked down in his favour and the balance amount within 15 days, the entire deposit made by the bidder shall be forfeited by the Authorised Officer without any notice.

(4) The successful bidder would bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance such as Stamp duty, Registration fee etc., as applicable as per law.

(5) The Authorised officer will not be held responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrance, property tax or any other dues to the Govt. or anybody in respect of the property under sale.

(6) The Authorised Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject the bid or adjourn/ postpone the auction without assigning any reason therefore.

(7) The sale is subject to confirmation by the Bank.

(8) The auction of the property will be made as per the above order or at the discretion of the Authorised Officer.

(9) For inspection of property, the intending bidders may contact, Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha, Marathahalli Branch, #95/3,Kote N.C.P.R Tower Building,Outer Ring Road,Opp. Jeevika Hospital,Doddanekkundi, Bangalore-560037 during the office hours or may contact at telephone No.080-25401160/161/Mob: 9606018413.

Date : 15/10/2025
Place : Bangalore

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha
Marathahalli Branch.

Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Bengaluru Division

2nd Floor, PWD Annexe Building,K.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560001. Ph: 080-22133370

No.: 28/2025-26 Date: 14.10.2025

Tender Notification

Item-rate tenders for the work in **PWD ANEKAL** Sub Division under this office noted below, are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka in accordance with Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Rules 2000 and as per Standard Tender Documents-KC-2 for procurement of **Consultancy Services &** Tender Notification are published **for 01 Service work for (Rs. 100.00 lakhs).** Details of the works can be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days. **EMD & Tender processing fees are mentioned in KPP Portal.** Eligible contractors interested in tendering for the work may apply for the tender through e-procurement. **(1)** Tenders must be submitted online through KPP Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) on or before 4.00 PM on 28.10.2025. (2)** The opening of tenders through KPP Portal is on **29.10.2025 at 4.30 PM** or further date and time will be intimated. For more details contact this office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/DD-C.P/3275/KSMCA/2025-26

Mysore Sugar Company Limited

CIN: U15428KA1933SGC000142
Registered Office: Mysore Open Air Theatre, Sugar Town, Mandya- 571-402, Mandya 571-402

(Attention to Shareholders)

This notice is being circulated to all the shareholders of Mysore Sugar Company Limited under the Companies Act, 2013 and the Implementing Rules to inform them about the transaction of shares, KYC compliance and revision of shareholding details.

(1) **Transfer of Shares:-** The Company shall not be liable for any loss of shares due to the retirement, death or any other reason of the shareholders and the shareholders shall be requested to furnish the necessary documents promptly.

As per the provisions of Section 56 of the Companies Act, 2013, and Regulation 40 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, Trading of shares may be postponed in accordance with all relevant laws and regulations. In the event of the death of a shareholder, the surviving members, legal heirs or nominees must provide the necessary documents, such as death certificate, succession certificate or legal heir certificate.

(2) KYC Compliance: - As per regulatory requirements, shareholders are required to update their KYC details, including PAN, bank account details, email ID and mobile number, with the company and the Depository Participant (for dematerialized shares).

(3) Update of shareholder details:- Shareholders are requested to confirm and update their shareholder forms with the company to ensure proper documentation and compliance with regulatory standards.

Shareholders are advised to complete these formalities as soon as possible to avoid any inconvenience.

By order of the Board,
Mysore Sugar Company Limited.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಸನಿ–ಮಂ/ಕೆಮಸ್ ಎಂಸಿ&ಎ/505/2025–26

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Sashi Chandra W/O, Ramesh V Salimatt R/o #221, Ganga Nilaya, Kereguddahalli, Chikkabanavara Post Bangalore - 560090 have changed my name to Sashi Ramesh.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, G. Poornima Alias Sarala P, W/o. G Nandish R/o. Flat 009, Kuteer Bliss Apartment Nobo nagar, Bengaluru-560076, have changed my name from Sarala P to G Poornima after marriage. G Poornima Alias Sarala P both the names refer to me only. Vide affidavit dated 15.10.2025. This is for all record purpose.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that our client, having been declared the successful bidder, intends to purchase the property described in the Schedule hereunder through a bank auction conducted by Vasavi Co-operative Bank on 25 Sep 2025, the said property having been mortgaged to the bank by its owner and mortgagor G.S. Krishnamurthy, S/o G.Shamboji Rao. The proposed purchase shall be subject to production of the e-Khata, vacant possession, and property tax paid receipts up to date.Any person having any objection, claim, right, title, or interest in respect of the said propety is hereby requested to submit the same in writing to M.A. Narasimhan & Co., Chartered Accountants, No.25, 7th Cross, Swimming Pool Extension, Malleswaram, Bengaluru – 560003, within seven (7) days from the date of this publication.If no objections are received within the said period, it shall be presumed that there are no claims or encumbrances, and our client shall proceed with the purchase.SCHEDULE OF PROPERTYSecond Floor portion of the residential building constructed on property bearing Old No.71 and New No.214, situated at 16th Cross, 4th Main, Malleswaram, Bengaluru – 560055, having a super built-up area of 1674 square feet, together with the corresponding undivided one-fourth share in land measuring 662 square feet, and one covered car parking space in the Ground Floor marked as S-F, in the building known as "Manjunatha Nilaya", belonging to G.S. Krishnamurthy.

Sd/-
CA M.A. Partha Narayan
For M.A. Narasimhan & Co.Chartered Accountants
No.25, 7th Cross, Swimming Pool Extension,Malleswaram, Bengaluru – 560003.
Ph: 9448314766 / 9980919080

J BG-BGE

City surgeon arrested for murdering doctor-wife

The accused allegedly injected a controlled anaesthetic agent restricted to operation-theatre use in multiple organs and made it look like a natural death, according to the police

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Six months after the death of a 29-year-old city-based dermatologist, the Marathahalli police arrested her husband, a general surgeon, in Udupi on Tuesday on charges of murdering her by allegedly injecting a controlled anaesthetic agent restricted to operation-theatre use, in multiple organs in a bid to kill her and make it look like a natural death.

However, meticulous investigations of the Scene of Crime Officer (SOCO) and Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) teams based on the complaint filed by family members helped the police zero in on the accused, identified as Mahendra Reddy.

The accused has been booked for murder and taken into custody to ascertain the exact motive behind the murder.

According to the complaint filed by the father of the deceased, the incident took place on April 21, when Kruthika Reddy reportedly fell ill and was taken to a nearby hospital by her husband, where she was declared 'brought dead'. Based on the medico-legal case and statements filed by the family members, the Marathahalli police registered a case of unnatural death.

The couple got married on May 26 last year and both were working at Victoria Hospital. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The SOCO visited the house and recovered evidence, including a cannula set, an injection tube, and other medical items. These items were handed over to investigators for forensic analysis. The viscera samples were collected and sent to the FSL to determine the cause of death. The FSL report later confirmed the presence of Propofol, a powerful anaesthetic drug, in the victim's organs, indicating a criminal act. Based on this report, the victim's father, K. Muni Reddy, filed a complaint on October 13, alleging that his son-in-law had murdered his daughter using the anaesthetic drug, according to the police.

The couple got married on May 26 last year and both were working at Victoria Hospital, Bengaluru.

In his complaint, Muni Reddy alleged that ever since their marriage, the accused had not been taking care of his wife and had allegedly administered drugs on the pretext of treating her. He accused his son-in-law of neglecting her after they turned down his demand for money to construct a private hospital for him. His in-laws cited that they could not afford such a big amount, and later helped him to set up a clinic at Munnekolala, where the couple were planning to start private practice, the police said.

On April 24, the accused allegedly administered the drugs multiple times to treat her for gastric problem, despite the victim repeatedly requesting him to remove the canola, unable to bear the pain, police said.

Refused postmortem

The accused refused to get the postmortem done even after the victim's family filed a complaint with the jurisdictional police. "Being a doctor, he did not even perform CPR at home when he noticed the victim unconscious and not responding to the treatment," Mr. Reddy alleged.

The family alleged that when they conducted a background check, they found that the accused's family not only has criminal cases pending against them, but the accused also had an affair.

State to ready 300-acre data centre park at Tavarekere in 18 months

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Karnataka will create a dedicated data centre park at Tavarekere, an industrial area bordering Hoskote and Kolar, to cater to the huge data centre infrastructure requirement in the State.

Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) has already notified and would soon be acquiring 1,000 acres of land in Tavarekere, (some 46 km away from the central business area of Bengaluru), and 250 to 300 acres of this land parcel would be used to build a dedicated data centre park infrastructure for enterprises to set up their individual data centres, Sharath Bache Gowda, Chairman, KEONICS told *The Hindu* on Wednesday.

Hub-and-spoke model

"This will be a very large data centre infrastructure in the State in the scale of high MW to GW capacity. The idea is to create a hub and spoke model with a GW data centre connecting several edge data centres in emerging cities in the State," he elaborated.

The data centre park would be ready within 18 to 24 months and the idea was to link the GW/hyper scale facility with smaller 25 to 30 MW several such data centres across Mysuru, Hubballi, Dharwad, Belagavi, Kalaburagi and Davanagere to ensure seamless data storage and data safety, said Mr. Gowda. "Data centre is a very critical infrastructure for a digital economy. It is like how you have roads, flyovers, ports and canals for connectivity and logistics. It is the neural networks that support network connectivity for the state and beyond," he elaborated.

Huge demand

When asked who all would be the tenants at the upcoming data centre park, Mr. Gowda said that there was huge demand for such dedicated data centre infrastructure in the State from domestic and international players. "Secretaries of IT and Industries are also working on this project," he informed.

Earlier speaking at a Data Centre Summit organised by India Green Building Council, a part of the Confederation of Indian Industry, he said, "Our vision is to make Karnataka a hub for data innovation, extending leadership beyond Bengaluru for regional parity and supporting hyperscale and edge data centres across the State."

Where it stands

According to industry experts, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu are quite ahead of Karnataka in terms of data centre infrastructure. "Karnataka, being a huge data-heavy state with all its IT prowess and knowledge ecosystem, should significantly beef up its data storage and management capabilities by creating huge green data centres faciilities," said an industry observer, who did not want to be named.

Video of traffic police slapping rider surfaces; probe promised

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The video of a traffic policeman caught on camera slapping a two-wheeler rider twice has surfaced on social media, drawing criticism from the members of the general public on Wednesday. The incident is said to be near Silk Board junction, but it is yet to be verified and is being probed by senior officials, who promised to take necessary action.

In the video the traffic policeman is seen stopping the two wheeler rider, who is wearing helmet, and slapping him. The victim removes his helmet and asks the policeman why he is slapping him, for which the traffic policeman slapped him again.

The policeman accompanying him is also seen stopping other vehicles and taking away the keys.

Director General and Inspector General of Police, M.A. Saleem, had directed the police not to stop the vehicles for random checks unless they find any visible violations. The directions were issued following a tragic incident of a three-year-old girl being killed after she fell off a motorcycle and was run over by a truck during a vehicle check by the traffic police at Swarnasandra in Mandya in May this year, sparking public outrage.

Bengaluru markets buzzing with lamps, pots, healthier sweets

DEEPAVALI

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

With Deepavali just a few days away, markets across Bengaluru are decked up with new designs in lanterns, terracotta, and LED lamps.

Lamps, pots, and decorative stands with patterns and designs like animal faces, such as elephants, ducks, and turtle motifs, are more common this year, apart from the traditional hand-painted pieces. Vendors say they are introducing new designs to attract buyers to the market, as many customers have been turning to online options in the past few years. "While regular clay lamps and painted ones are still in demand, especially for pooja rituals, many customers are also choosing decorative lamps and LED lights for home decor. Unique pieces, those that don't show up at every festival, are drawing people into markets. This mix of old with new designs and colours is helping us maintain market interest," Mahadevappa G.R., a vendor in Malleswaram, said.

Festival prep: Colourful lamps, light shades, and other decorative items kept for sale at Gandhi Bazaar in Bengaluru ahead of Deepavali. K. MURALI KUMAR

"We are trying to bring unique elements at minimal prices to bring people to markets. Nowadays, even when visitors are coming, they first check prices and designs online and then come here to compare and mostly go without purchasing," Sumathi Kanthiraj, a vendor in Gandhi Bazaar, Basavanagudi, said, adding that online prices and accessibility have changed expectations. "You get 12 lamps for ₹40 online, while here, two painted ones alone cost ₹50. But this is the only time of year these vendors can make some money, so we should still buy from them," said Meenakshi R., a shopper in Gandhi Bazaar".

Vendors mentioned that the price of clay and enamel paint has risen by nearly 10% compared to last year, while packing materials and basic supplies have also become costlier. Many sellers admitted that they have had to adjust prices slightly to manage higher input costs, with items like decorative and painted lamps witnessing a slight increase.

Sweets and dry fruit shops are seeing steady sales. Shopowners, however, say buyers' choices have changed while picking sweets and that, more than the usual sweets like kaju katlis and laddoos, there is growing demand for healthy alternatives. Jaggery-based millet sweets, ragi laddoos, and seed-mix chikkis are selling faster this season, shopkeepers told *The Hindu*.

Several confectioners and bakeries have introduced millet-based, palm sugar varieties of muffins and tea cakes to meet the demand for healthier options. "Fusion sweets, such as chocolate-coated barfis, dry fruit truffles, and mixed seed crackers, are finding more takers among younger customers," another shopkeeper in Ashwath Nagar said.

Customised gifts

Customised gift packs are another visible trend this year. "Instead of large bulk boxes, buyers are more drawn towards compact hampers containing a greater number of things, such as a mix of sweets, savouries, dry fruits, and sometimes accessories like mugs, keychains, or earrings. Many of us have introduced personalised gift options too," Shekhar M., a shopkeeper said.

BSWML unveils waste kiosks to tackle garbage and black spots

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a step towards cleaner streets and improved waste management, a new waste kiosk was inaugurated to facilitate localised garbage collection and disposal in southeastern Bengaluru's Adugodi.

The initiative aims to eliminate black spots, reduce foul odours, and encourage residents to actively participate in keeping the city clean. Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited plans to set up 76 such kiosks across the city, supported by transfer stations and community-level composting initiatives.

Transport Minister and BTM Layout MLA Ramalinga Reddy inaugurated the semi-automatic dry waste collection centre and waste kiosk in Adugodi and emphasised that citizen cooperation is critical for effective waste management.

According to the plan, each kiosk will be equipped with four 100-litre bins, allowing citizens to dispose of segregated waste free of charge at designated times.

Highlighting ongoing successes, officials noted that BTM Layout's second-phase transfer station is already operational, while Koramangala's waste-to-compost and leaf-processing units are functioning effectively.

RWA's join

Several resident welfare associations (RWA)have also begun processing organic waste locally and distributing compost to farmers. Karee Gowda, Chief Executive Officer of BSWML, said the kiosks are being established to permanently remove black spots in the city. In addition, about 4 acres in BTM Layout 4th Stage have been earmarked for a new transfer station, and authorities are exploring the use of CSR funds to construct dry waste collection units in every constituency.

Three held for robbing foreign student

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Seshadripuram police on Tuesday arrested three persons for allegedly robbing a 25-year-old Sudanese national in Bengaluru on October 8.

The accused, identified as Philps George, 29, Vikram, 25, and Ajith, 29, were tracked down based on the online transaction between the victim and the accused.

According to the police, on October 8, around 12.40 a.m., the victim was returning from Koramangala on his two-wheeler. The accused, on a bike, confronted him near Rajiv Gandhi Circle in Seshadripuram and asked him to stop. Though the victim tried to flee, the trio chased him. The victim lost control and fell off his bike.

The three allegedly caught hold of him, snatched his mobile phone and bike key, and demanded to handover the valuables. The accused allegedly forced the victim to transfer ₹11,000 from his mobile phone, took over his scooter, and fled from the scene. With the help of passers-by, the victim called the police, who arrived at the spot, shifted the student to a hospital for treatment, and later registered a case of robbery at the Seshadripuram Police.

The police seized two two-wheelers (one used in the crime and one belonging to the complainant), four mobile phones belonging to the accused and the complainant, and ₹11,000 cash from the accused.

Another incident

In a similar incident, the Kengeri police arrested two people who allegedly robbed valuables from an ITI student and his younger brother while they were walking home after dinner in Kengeri on Sunday night.

The accused, identified as Pratap, 22, and his associate Madesha, 21, were arrested based on a complaint by Sharath K. The victim, who had come for ITI training and was staying with his friend, was returning home along with his younger brother to his accommodation after dinner, when the incident occurred.

The accused, along with one more associate, allegedly approached them on a scooter, threatened them, and robbed their valuables, including a phone, watches, and even forced them to transfer ₹3,500 to their account online from his phone.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is informed that my client **Abdul Salam V M s/o late Shaik Madar Sab Vaget** intends to purchase property described in the schedule herein from **K. Samson** (hereinafter Owner/seller). The Owner/seller represents and warrant that he is the sole and absolute owner of the schedule property and that he has not conveyed or entered into any Agreement to Sell/MOU or any sort of agreement with any other person/s, for sale/transfer of the schedule property and that the Developer/seller further represents and warrants that he has not encumbered, the schedule property in any manner and apart from him no other person/s, includes legal heirs, Firm or Company having any sort of right, title or claim over the schedule property.

Any person/s having any objection/s or claim/s shall with documentary evidence lodge their objection/s, claim/s, within **Seven (07) days** from the date of this notice with the undersigned, failing which my client shall proceed with the above mentioned transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of **Site no.19,** Katha No.1082, Property No.109, BBMP EPID No.2451888051, measuring East to West **30ft** and North to South **40ft** totally measuring **1200 sqft,** under the limits of BBMP, situated at **Vijinapura Village, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Tq, Bengaluru District,** bounded on :

East by : Property of G. Lakshmamma, West by : Private Property, North by : Private Property, South by : 20ft wide Road.

Prashanth B.K, Advocate,
No.17, Sir M V 2nd Cross, Kalkere Main Road, Ramamurthynagar
Bengaluru-560016 M : 09900056401
Bengaluru Date : 16-10-2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is informed that my client **Abdul Salam V M s/o late Shaik Madar Sab Vaget** intends to purchase property described in the schedule herein from **K. Manjunatha s/o M. Krishnappa** (hereinafter Owner/seller). The Owner/seller represents and warrant that he is the sole and absolute owner of the schedule property and that he has not conveyed or entered into any Agreement to Sell/MOU or any sort of agreement with any other person/s, for sale/transfer of the schedule property and that the Developer/seller further represents and warrants that he has not encumbered, the schedule property in any manner and apart from him no other person/s, includes legal heirs, Firm or Company having any sort of right, title or claim over the schedule property.

Any person/s having any objection/s or claim/s shall with documentary evidence lodge their objection/s, claim/s, within **Seven (07) days** from the date of this notice with the undersigned, failing which my clients shall proceed with the above mentioned transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of **Site No.2A,** Katha No.1082, Property No.109, BBMP EPID No.7337019856, measuring East to West **30ft** and North to South **20ft** totally measuring **600 sqft,** under the limits of BBMP, situated at **Vijinapura Village, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Tq, Bengaluru District,** bounded on

East by : Road, West by : Site No.19, North by : Private Property, South by : Southern Portion of Site No.2

Prashanth B.K, Advocate,
No.17, Sir M V 2nd Cross, Kalkere Main Road, Ramamurthynagar
Bengaluru-560016 M : 09900056401
Bengaluru Date : 16-10-2025

Government of Telangana
Department of Mines and Geology
My Home Sarover Plaza, Flat No: 203 & 204, 2nd Floor, House No: 5-922
Shapurwadi, Adarshnagar, Secretariat Road, Hyderabad, Telangana-500063
Website: www.mines.telangana.gov.in
e-mail: dmg-eauction-mines@telangana.gov.in

No. 2263906/DM&G-MI/Lst/2023 **Date: October 16, 2025**

Notice Inviting Tender
"Invitation of bids for grant of Mining Lease for Limestone Mineral Blocks"

Government of Telangana in exercise of the powers conferred by Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and in accordance with the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015, invites tender from the eligible bidders for the e-auction of 3 (three) Limestone mineral blocks in the state.

Eligibility conditions, timelines, terms, and conditions etc. for participating in the electronic auction are provided in the Tender Document available in electronic form only and can be downloaded from e-auction portal of MSTC Limited.

Interested bidders can register on the above e-auction portal. The bidders can participate in the bidding only after online purchase of the Tender Document on payment of the Tender fee from the above e-auction portal. Any revision, clarifications, addendum, corrigendum, time extensions, etc. to the tender document will be hosted on the above e-auction portal only and no separate notifications shall be issued in the press.

Model Tender Document and Mineral Block Summaries are available free of cost and Block Specific Tender documents and other related documents are available for purchase on the e-auction portal of MSTC Limited (https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/mlcln/index.jsp).

The date for commencement of Sale of Tender Document is **Thursday, October 23, 2025**. The pre-bid conference would be organised in hybrid mode on **Tuesday, November 11, 2025**. The venue, time and link for virtual mode shall be notified separately on the MSTC portal. The last date for purchase of Tender Document on the e-auction platform is Monday, **1 December, 2025**, and the last date for submission of the bid is Monday, **8 December, 2025**, on or before 17:00 hours (IST). The bidders shall note that financial bids are invited in digital format only and technical bids are invited both in digital and physical format.

List of Mineral Blocks for Auction

S. N.	Name of the Block	Mineral	District	#Price of Tender Document in (Rs.)
1	Jamni Block	Limestone	Adilabad	5,00,000
2	Pasupulabodu Block	Limestone	Suryapet	5,00,000
3	Kodangal Limestone Block	Limestone	Vikarabad	5,00,000

#The Price of Tender Document for mineral block is exclusive of GST. GST is payable under Reverse Charge Mechanism.

R.O. No. : 720-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2025-26

Sd/-
Department of Mines and Geology (FAC)

Biotech surge builds momentum but faces scaling bottlenecks

Leadership in biotechnology will require India to streamline its ecosystem and channel resources into high-impact areas; the government, industry leaders, and academia need to consolidate funding, build integrated infrastructure, and reconcile regulation with international best practices

Deepakshi Kasat

A unique combination of affordable R&D, a diverse and young talent pool, and rapid digital integration has positioned India at the forefront of biotech innovation. Representative image. USCDC

India's biotech surge has been nothing short of extraordinary over the past several years. From a modest count of roughly 500 startups in 2018, the number has soared to over 10,000 in 2025. This rapid expansion is supported by a network of 94 incubators across 25 States, fuelling innovation that's transforming healthcare and the life sciences.

Government-backed initiatives including the BioE3 Policy and an ambitious vision to create a $300-billion bioeconomy by 2030 have set the stage for a sector poised to become a global powerhouse. Established companies such as Serum Institute of India and Bharat Biotech have long showcased India's prowess in delivering affordable vaccines and generics, while home-grown pioneers like MedGenome and Strand Life Sciences are now driving breakthroughs in precision medicine and diagnostics.

Strong governmental support, investor confidence, and inherent competitive advantages are key factors behind the vibrant biotech ecosystem. Schemes such as Startup India, BIRAC-funded initiatives, and production-linked incentives have streamlined processes and attracted significant foreign direct investment (as India permits 100% FDI in many biotech segments). This openness has allowed the nation to become a leader in generics and vaccine production, supplying over 60% of global doses for immunisations such as DPT, BCG, and measles.

After the early stage

At the same time, startups are embracing artificial intelligence (AI) to revolutionise research and development. Companies like MedGenome are using AI-driven analytics to accelerate drug discovery and refine clinical diagnostics, cutting costs and enhancing patient outcomes. The unique combination of affordable R&D, a diverse and young talent pool, and rapid digital integration has positioned India at the forefront of biotech innovation.

Despite these achievements, the sector faces significant challenges that keep this momentum from continuing. Although headline investments over the past two years have reached around $3 billion, capital is extremely scarce when companies require tens of millions of dollars to scale for phase II clinical trials or build dedicated good-manufacturing-practice (GMP) facilities.

While companies such as Inovio and Mylab Discovery Solutions have successfully navigated early-stage hurdles, others have found it difficult to secure additional rounds required to scale up to global markets.

Consider a hypothetical Mumbai-based healthcare startup developing an AI platform for early cancer detection that stalled its $15 million funding round because investors demanded extensive, geographically diverse clinical validation. Pilot studies covering both rural and urban regions for regulatory approval ultimately would have led to value leakage and shifted potential growth to a larger acquirer.

Strategic priorities

Fragmentation is another major concern. Despite hosting over 70 incubators, few are equipped with the complete suite of specialised facilities, such as pilot-scale purification systems, fill-and-finish suites, and robust regulatory affairs support. These are critical to advance promising technologies. As a result, entrepreneurs are often forced to shuttle between cities to complete a single development cycle, duplicating expensive equipment and bureaucratic processes, and wasting precious scientific talent.

Regulatory complexities also slow progress. India's existing frameworks for clinical trials, patent laws, and product approval were designed in an earlier era and now often fall short of the dynamic demands posed by AI-driven innovation and cutting-edge biologics. These delays don't only postpone market entry: they also deter international collaboration and investment.

To overcome these challenges and unlock the full potential of the biotech ecosystem, India needs to address several strategic priorities. Foremost, the system must focus on being deep rather than wide. That is, rather than dispersing resources across a fragmented incubator landscape, India needs to consolidate its efforts into a few robust clusters.

For instance, a "GMP Commons" in Genome Valley or a Mumbai-Pune corridor, jointly funded by the government, multinationals, and development finance institutions, could pool expensive downstream equipment and expert services that individual startups could never afford alone.

Talent challenges

Bridging the financing gap is imperative. A dedicated biotechnology fund modelled on innovative digital venture structures could provide matching equity or venture debt for companies that have demonstrated proof-of-concept but are not yet market-ready. Blended-finance structures would draw in institutional capital from insurance companies and pension funds while providing partial guarantees to cushion scientific risks.

Third, establishing late phase trial hubs would streamline product development significantly. For instance, a network of specialty centers within the All India Institute of Medical Sciences hospitals could allocate dedicated ward space, imaging suites, and integrated electronic-health-record systems exclusively for industry-sponsored clinical trials. Harmonised ethics committees and centralised laboratories could subsequently reduce trial delays, ensuring data integrity and reassuring international regulators.

Bridging the financing gap is imperative. A dedicated biotechnology fund could provide matching equity or venture debt for companies that have demonstrated proof-of-concept. Blended-finance structures would draw in institutional capital while providing partial guarantees to cushion scientific risks

Fourth, addressing talent challenges through a reverse brain drain initiative is paramount. Policies including tax holidays, relocation grants, and soft loans could attract post-doctoral scientists back to India, while micro-credential courses in areas such as CRISPR process engineering, GMP data integrity, and AI-driven biostatistics would ensure the workforce stays competitive.

Finally, adopting a risk-based, context-specific regulatory framework that mirrors successful models like the European Union's tiered AI Act and the US Food and Drug Administration's Predetermined Change Control Plans could help tailor validations for dataset diversity and algorithm performance without imposing unnecessarily rigid controls on all innovations.

Streamlining and reconciliation

There are several promising focus areas for startups looking to capture new value. AI-driven drug design, molecular diagnostics, and digital health platforms are gaining significant traction in innovation hubs such as Bangalore and Hyderabad, particularly in accelerating drug discovery and improving clinical diagnostics. Precision genomics and affordable gene therapies which utilise technologies like CRISPR hold potential to address chronic diseases that burden both domestic and international markets.

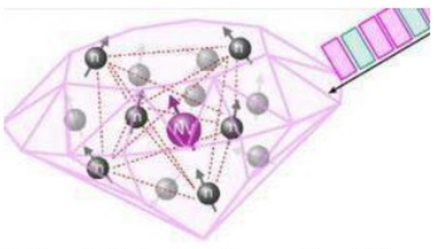
In parallel, sustainable agricultural biotechnology continues to offer immense opportunities. With 85% of Indian farms being smaller than 2 hectares, startups are deploying precision farming techniques that optimise irrigation and pest control; for instance, pioneering companies like Cropin and Fasal have demonstrated how localised AI integration can enhance yield and cut input costs.

Further, India's established strengths in vaccine production, biosimilars, and generics only solidify its potential as a global export hub. Bharat Biotech's launch of the world's first intranasal COVID-19 vaccine exemplifies how Indian innovation can achieve global impact. Meanwhile, long-established giants such as Serum Institute of India and Biocon have set international benchmarks for quality and cost efficiency, laying the groundwork for domestic startups to leverage their expertise into products of higher value.

Looking forward, global leadership in biotechnology will require India to smartly streamline its ecosystem and channel resources into high-impact areas. The government, industry leaders, and academia need to work collaboratively to consolidate funding, build integrated infrastructure, and reconcile regulatory standards with international best practices.

By focusing on these strategic priorities, India will be able to sustain its remarkable quantitative growth as well as achieve qualitative breakthroughs that will transform its biotechnology sector into a model of global excellence in healthcare and life sciences.

(Deepakshi Kasat is a scientist with GlaxoSmithKline in California. The views expressed here are the author's own and don't involve those of the company. deepakshikasat@gmail.com)



A schematic illustration of the experiment. The rectangles on the right depict the microwave pulses. The pointed spheres denote the carbon-13 nuclei's spins. MOON, L.J.I., SCHINDLER, P.M., SUN, Y. ET AL. NAT. PHYS. (2025).

Phase of matter where order, disorder coexist in time found

Vasudevan Mukunth

Scientists have discovered a new phase of matter called a time rondeau crystal that shows an unusual kind of order in time, rather than in space like solids and liquids. The phase is related to, but distinct from, a time crystal.

In normal matter, the arrangement of atoms can be either ordered or disordered. For example a (solid) crystal has a repeating structure while a liquid doesn't. The order in a crystal comes from breaking the perfect symmetry of space: instead of looking the same everywhere, it repeats in a regular pattern.

A time crystal, predicted in 2012 and observed in later experiments, shows a similar idea in time rather than space. When a system is periodically imparted some energy – like pushing a swing at regular intervals – it might oscillate at a different rhythm, such as every two pulses instead of one. Now the system can be said to be behaving in a repeating way in time, forming a crystal pattern in time rather than in space.

A time rondeau crystal (TRC), which an international research team reported on October 14 in *Nature Physics*, takes this concept further. In a time crystal, the motion is perfectly regular, like a clock ticking at a fixed beat. In a TRC, the system has a mix of order and randomness: it keeps a repeating pattern over long times, but between those repeating moments the motion is disordered or irregular.

The researchers created a TRC using the spins of the nuclei of carbon-13 atoms in diamond. They controlled the spins, which is an implicit property of these particles, using microwave pulses. They didn't impart the pulses at strictly periodic intervals – there was some randomness – but the randomness itself had structure. They caused the nuclei's spins to be partly unpredictable in the short term but predictable when observed over longer intervals.

A TRC is a state in which long-term regularity and short-term randomness coexist. It shows that time itself can host patterns richer than repetition and that even in disorder, order may lie hidden

The time rondeau crystal's order was found to be metastable, i.e. it lasted for several seconds, which was far longer than the timescales at which microscopic processes happened in the diamond, but which faded as the system heated up.

A TRC is thus a state of matter in which long-term regularity and short-term randomness coexist in time, like a melody with unpredictable variations that also keeps returning to a familiar refrain. It shows that time itself can host patterns richer than simple repetition, and that even in disorder, order may lie hidden.

The discovery matters because it expands physicists' understanding of what 'order' means in physics. Researchers have believed time order could only exist in strictly periodic systems like time crystals. The TRC shows however that new, more complex forms of time-wise organisation are also possible, even when the timing of the external drive is not regular. According to the study's authors, this opens the door to exploring many new kinds of "temporal orders" lying between perfect order and complete randomness. Physicists expect such systems to have practical uses as well. For instance, a TRC can be used to encode information in its beats or to create new kinds of quantum sensors that respond to specific frequencies.

mukunth.v@thehindu.co.in

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

When physics steps outside its comfort zones

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

Some fluids thicken instead of thinning when stirred or shaken repeatedly, taking longer to return to their original state once the movement stops. What is this rare counterpart of thixotropy, observed in substances like gypsum paste and printer's ink, called?

QUESTION 2

In most transparent materials, bluer light, which is of higher frequency, slows down more than red light as it passes through. But at or 'near' certain conditions, the opposite occurs: blue light speeds up instead and bends less. What is this optical phenomenon called?

QUESTION 3

According to classical mechanics, particles need a certain minimum amount of potential energy to cross barriers. But quantum mechanics allows them to cross these barriers without that minimum requirement, by allowing them to pass through the barriers instead, What is this effect called?

QUESTION 4

When certain materials are cooled below a certain critical temperature, they allow electric currents to flow endlessly, without resistance or loss of energy. What is this remarkable quantum state of matter, which comes in at least two types, called?

QUESTION 5

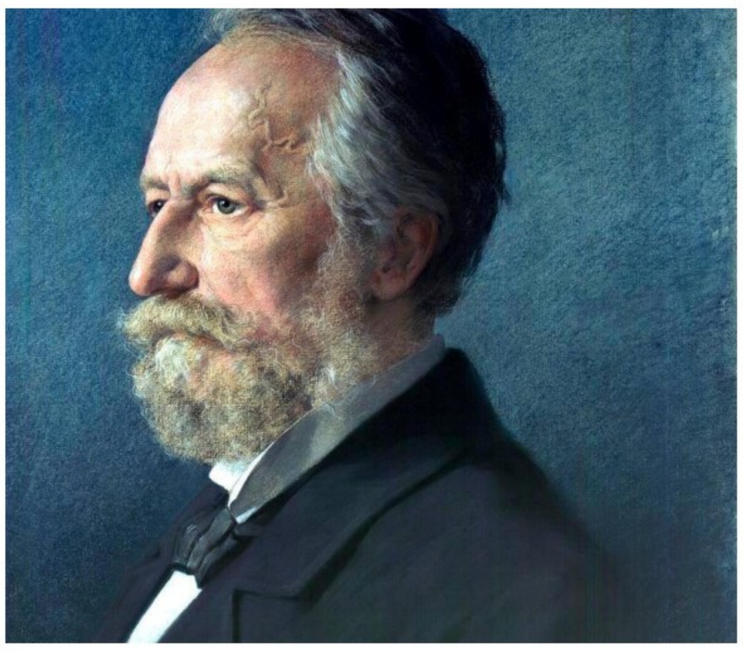
In certain isolated systems, adding energy can actually lower their entropy, making them appear hotter than an infinite 'amount' of temperature. What is the counterintuitive name for this paradoxical thermodynamic state?

Answers to October 14 quiz:

1. Time for a nerve impulse to travel from ear to brain to leg muscles – **Ans: 0.1 s**
2. Property of sprinters' legs allowing release of elastic energy – **Ans: Stiffness**
3. Athlete who reinvented the high jump to be more efficient – **Ans: Dick Fosbury**
4. Direction of change of javelins' centre of gravity to reduce range – **Ans: Forward**
5. Tailwind limit for sprinters attempting to set/break records – **Ans: 2 m/s**

Visual: **James Ray Hines**

First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | Tamal Biswas | Anmol Agrawal | Keerthan Gowda



Visual: This German physician described a law for the process of _____. When this process didn't follow his law, it was called "anomalous." Fill in the blank. PUBLIC DOMAIN

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

THURSDAY
October 16, 2025

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Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

GREATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY
And
5 BENGALURU CITY CORPORATIONS

Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister and
Minister for Bengaluru City Development

A Precious Gift to the Citizens of Bengaluru for this Deepavali

Historic Decision by Government of Karnataka

B-Khata to A-Khata Conversion & New Sites also get A-Khata

How to apply for B-Khata to A-Khata Conversion & A-Khata for New Sites

Up to 2000 sqm

- Login using your Mobile & OTP @https://bbmp.karnataka.gov.in/BtoAKhata
- Enter EPID of your FINAL B-Khata & Fetch
- Aadhaar Authentication of Owners
- Confirm site Location, type of road in front of site
- Both converted & unconverted sites eligible (Flats not eligible)
- Print acknowledgement
- Site visit by city corporations & confirmation
- Pay "Single Plot" approval fee @5% of guidance value of site & other charges
- Automatic Single Plot approval & A-Khata is issued as per eligibility

More than 2000 sqm

- Contact Registered Architect or Engineer
- Apply online @https://bpas.bbmpgov.in for any type of plot
- Upload required documents and CAD drawing
- Pay Initial Scrutiny Fee of Rs. 500
- Submit application online (Flats not eligible)
- Site inspection by visit
- Approval as per eligibility
- Payment of Applicable Fees
- Single Plot Approval Certificate and Drawing issued & A-Khata is issued as per eligibility

The Constitutional Fundamental duty of every Indian is to protect public property and renounce violence

J BG-BGE

Music concert

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Nadasurabhi Cultural Association will present a violin duet by Carnatic violinist Mysore Nagaraj and his son Mysore Karthik. The performance will be held on Sunday at 4.15 p.m. at, St. John's Medical College, Koramangala.

Accompanying the father-son duo are acclaimed percussionists Arjun Kumar on the Mridangam and G. Guru Prasanna on the Khanjira. Entry will be through Gate 2 of the college campus.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, OCT. 16	
RISE 06:10	SET 18:00
RISE 01:52	SET 14:46
FRIDAY, OCT. 17	
RISE 06:10	SET 18:00
RISE 02:43	SET 15:24
SATURDAY, OCT. 18	
RISE 06:10	SET 17:59
RISE 03:32	SET 16:00

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	24
Mysuru	29	20
Bengaluru	27	21

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be slight warm. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower will occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be comfortable. Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

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THE HINDU
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Govt. to upgrade 800 of its schools to KPS at ₹3,000 cr.

Karnataka Public Schools are model government-run schools that provide education from pre-primary to II PU under one roof, with both English and Kannada medium options

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To strengthen government schools, the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) has decided to upgrade 800 government schools into Karnataka Public Schools (KPS) across the State.

KPS are model government-run schools that provide education from pre-primary to II PU under one roof, with both English and Kannada medium options.

"Each school will be developed with necessary infrastructure at an estimated cost of ₹4 crore. We are planning to invest around ₹3,000 crore to develop these schools," said Madhu Bangarappa, Minister for School Education and Literacy, at a press conference here on Wednesday.

"In the first phase, 500 schools will be upgraded in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB). In addition, 200 schools will be converted into KPS schools through Kalyan Karnataka Regional Development Board (KKRDB) funds. Similarly, a separate Detailed Project Report (DPR) will be prepared by the Karnataka Mining Environment Restoration Corporation (KMERC) through Comprehensive Environmental Plan for Mining Impacted Zones (CEPMIZ) for the upgradation of 100 KPS schools in 10 taluks. Two to three KPSes in each Assembly constituency and four to five in each taluk of Kalyan Karnataka region will be upgraded," he added. "Due to the huge demand for KPS, steps have been taken to increase the number of seats. The number of students in pre-primary classes has been increased from 30 to 40 and the number of students in primary to II PU has been increased from 30 to 50," Mr. Bangarappa said, adding that permission has been given in increase up to 60 students in schools with good infrastructure.

"There will be bilingual teaching in KPS up to class 5. From class 6, students can choose Kannada or English as the medium of instruction. Students will be provided with computer training from class 1, skill training from class 6. In addition, free transport facilities will be provided to students within a radius of five kilometres from the school," he explained.

With an aim to develop these schools, a Taluk Education Reform Committee will be constituted headed by local MLAs.

Admission drive
With an aim to attract the students to government schools, the DSEL has decided to start an admission drive campaign across the State from November.

Passing marks reduction

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government will implement the reduced pass percentage for SSLC and II PU exams – from 35 to 33 – from the current academic year. The government had issued a gazette notification in this regard few months ago and called for public opinion.

701 in favour
"Over 701 responses in favour of fixing minimum marks to 33 and only eight responses in favour of 35 marks were received," said Mr. Bangarappa.

Further, he stated that no decision has been taken regarding reducing marks for the first language subjects in SSLC from the existing 125 to 100.

"We need to discuss with the Chief Minister and also get public opinion on reducing of first language subject marks. But we will give clarity about it before the board exams this year," he added.

The aggregate marks for SSLC will be 206 and for II PU 198. In case if a student scores aggregate, but less than the minimum passing marks in one or two subjects (above 30 and below 33), then such students will be declared as pass.

Moral Science classes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Moral Science education will be implemented in schools from the current academic year, but with digital content for this year, as half the academic year is completed.

"Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will release the contents on November 1 and the same will be uploaded on public domain inviting suggestions to improve the content and the same will be shared with schools," said Mr. Bangarappa.

From next year Moral Science classes will be conducted in one period per week or once in two weeks.

The contents include: Empathy and Compassion, Respect, Honesty and Integrity, Sustainable living and environmental awareness, civic responsibility, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Emotional Intelligence and Resilience, Scientific Temper and creative imagination, Safety and Gender equality.

EXHIBIT/VISIT
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Industrial Pumps, Valves & Systems Exhibition
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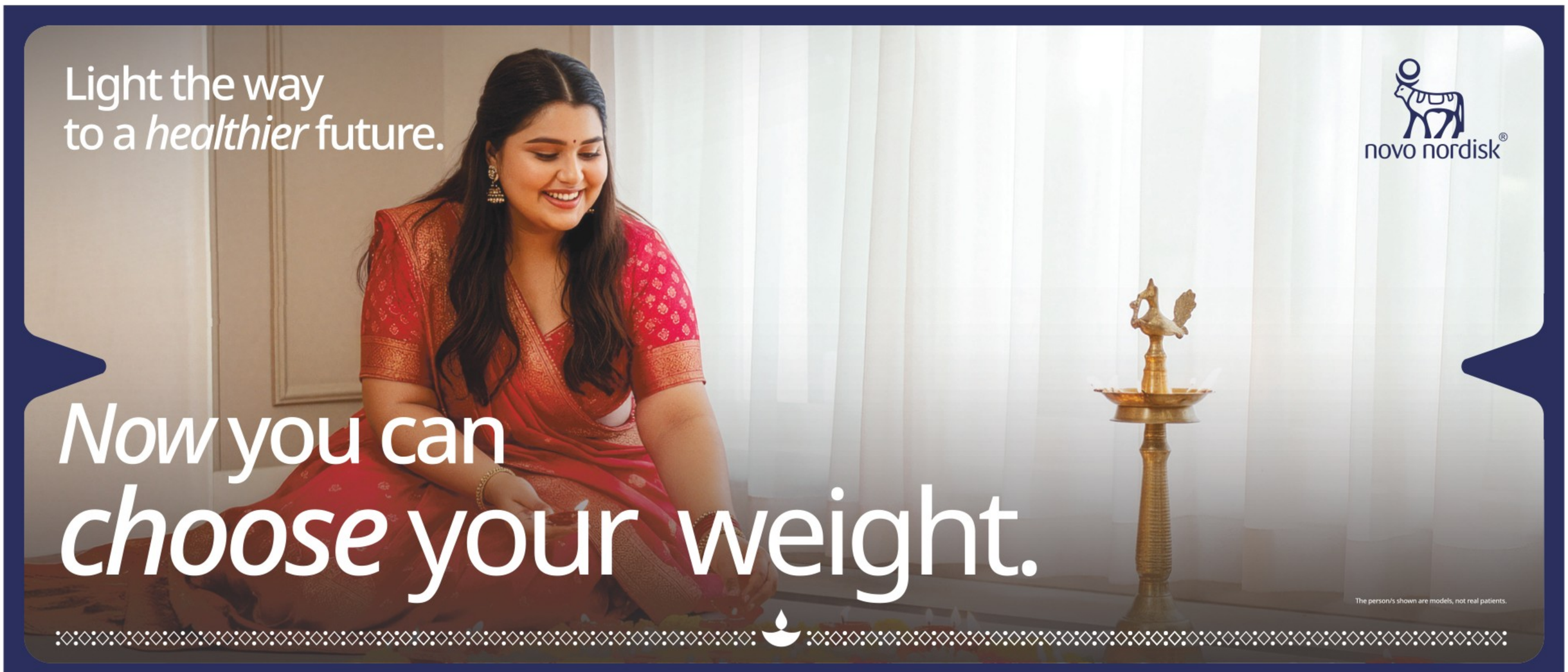

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The funding secured by TACC lithium-ion battery anode plant

1,230 In ₹ crore. Carbon materials manufacturer TACC Ltd has received a ₹1,230-crore credit facility from the State Bank of India (SBI) to fund its lithium-ion battery-grade graphite anode manufacturing plant in Dewas, Madhya Pradesh. PTI

The bribe accepted by an NHIDCL official in Guwahati, Assam

10 In ₹ lakh. The CBI has arrested the Executive Director of National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL)'s Guwahati regional office for allegedly accepting a ₹10 lakh bribe in exchange for a favourable project extension and completion certificate. ANI

Funds approved for infrastructure projects for the Delhi police

653.46 In ₹ crore. The Ministry of Home Affairs has approved ₹653.46 crore for 26 new infrastructure projects for Delhi Police, including 18 police stations, seven police posts, a women's hostel, and 180 staff quarters. ANI

Additional rice to be given under the PDS by Odisha government

5 In kilograms. The Odisha government is considering providing an additional 5 kilograms of rice per person under the public distribution system (PDS). The proposal, which would benefit around 3.25 crore people covered under food security schemes, awaits the Chief Minister's approval. PTI

The kilograms of banned firecrackers seized in Delhi

122 In kgs. Police in Delhi's Jyoti Nagar seized 122 kilograms of banned firecrackers and arrested a 21-year-old man, for allegedly selling them from his shop. Officials recovered 11 bags filled with firecrackers of various brands. PTI

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The future of the IMEC

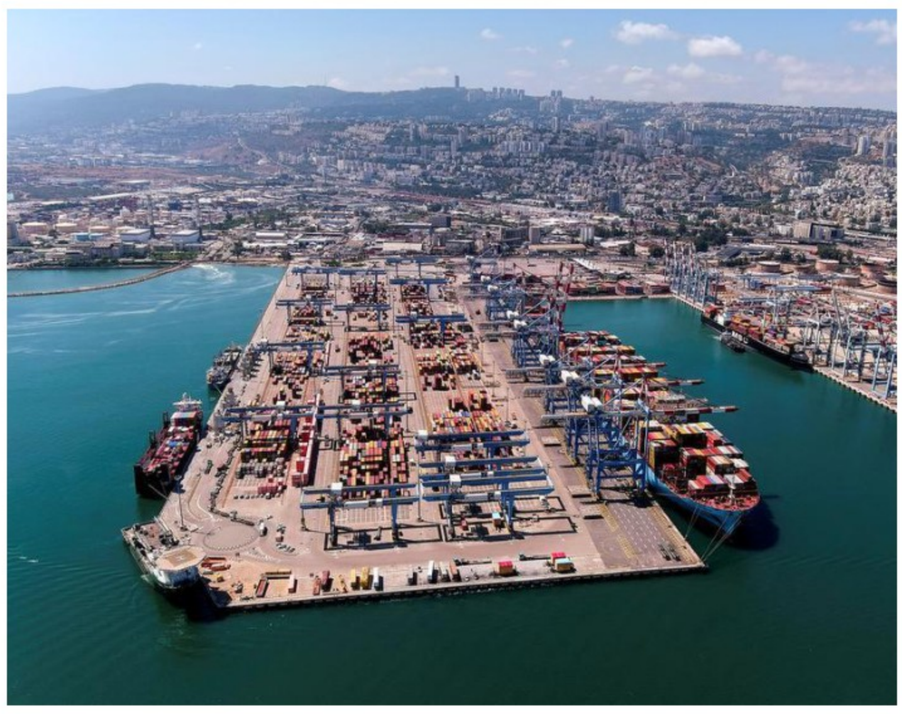
The India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor visualises maritime connectivity between India and the Arabian Peninsula, as well as high-speed trains running from the ports in the UAE to the Haifa port through Saudi Arabia and Jordan. However, the situation in West Asia mandates that the corridor's routes adapt to political dynamics

WORLD INSIGHT

Sanjay Pulipaka

The recent trade friction with the U.S. has prompted India to intensify its efforts to further diversify its economic interactions with various countries worldwide. While India has signed an agreement with the U.K., it is also negotiating a similar agreement with the EU. In addition to such compacts, India should also proactively develop frameworks such as the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC).

The IMEC visualises the upgradation of maritime connectivity between India and the Arabian Peninsula, as well as high-speed trains running from the ports in the UAE to the Haifa port in Israel through Saudi Arabia and Jordan. The goods transported on these networks would be shipped to and from European countries. Additionally, the IMEC seeks to build a clean hydrogen pipeline, an electricity cable, a high-speed undersea digital cable and consolidate existing infrastructure such as ports.



New routes: A general view of the Haifa Port in Israel in 2022. REUTERS

Historical background

In 2023, the geopolitical context was favourable for the operationalisation of the IMEC. The Abraham Accords had generated considerable optimism that peace would prevail in West Asia, with Israel and Arab countries working to build a stable relationship. Consequently, proposals were made to build railway lines for regional peace, connecting the Israeli port of Haifa with the Jordanian railway network, which would be linked to other ports in the Gulf region. Furthermore, there was significant improvement in India's relations with Arab countries, particularly with the UAE and Saudi Arabia. India's relations with the U.S. were also on an upward trajectory. Such convergences facilitated the emergence of the India, Israel, UAE, and U.S. (I2U2) framework. These geopolitical developments created a favourable environment for the launch of the IMEC on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit in Delhi, with various leaders of the EU, France, Germany, Italy, Saudi Arabia etc. endorsing the initiative.

However, within a few weeks of the launch of the IMEC, the security situation in West Asia deteriorated significantly. The October 7 Hamas attacks, followed by Israel's military actions in the region, contributed to the deterioration in the relationship between Israel and other countries in the region. These developments have raised questions about the feasibility of the IMEC.

Mediterranean concerns

Climate change has now opened new transport routes through the Arctic, with the principal beneficiaries being countries such as the U.S., Russia, China, and other northern European nations. It is now possible to transport more goods through the Arctic, significantly reducing transportation time and associated costs. Consequently, there is an expectation that port cities near the Arctic will emerge as new commercial centres.

Among IMEC's European signatories, France has both the Mediterranean and Atlantic coastlines. On the other hand, Italy has only the Mediterranean coast. Thus, there is significant concern about the implications of an Arctic trade route on its economy. As a result, Italy and other Mediterranean countries view the IMEC as a vital platform to preserve their influence in maritime trade. Mediterranean countries maintain that to hold a strong position in global trade requires new thinking, new partners, and scaling up of economic engagement with leading economies. India, with its four trillion-plus economy and sustained high growth, is seen as a viable partner to meet future challenges. Currently, it is still uncertain whether the Arctic route confers any unique advantages to India in terms of reduced transportation costs. Therefore, for India, accessing European markets through the Mediterranean route will continue to be important.

Given higher per capita income, technological advancements, and educational progress, Europe will continue to retain its trade significance for India. With trade over $136 billion, the EU is the largest trade partner of India. India and European countries need to scale up connectivity corridors and logistics networks to build resilient supply chains between the two.

The importance of the IMEC

The recent geopolitical developments have demonstrated that the security of sea lanes is unpredictable. The Houthi disruption in the Red Sea trade has prompted considerable trade to go around the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa, increasing the time and costs of transportation of goods. It is also still too early to determine if the recent Gaza peace plan will hold in the long run. Therefore, it is essential to find new routes to amplify economic relations between India, West Asia, and Europe.

Since the IMEC is a multi-member initiative, it gives considerable space for innovative approaches to adapt to changing geopolitical dynamics, which India and Arab countries should leverage. In addition to the proposed routes in IMEC, there is a need to explore the possibility of engaging other commercial centres and ports in Saudi Arabia and Egypt. Robust economic interactions between India and the Arab countries will also nullify Pakistan's attempt to build an alliance-like relationship in the region.

While focusing on the security challenges of IMEC, it is critical not to lose sight of economic opportunities that can be derived from India-Europe interactions. India and Europe should act as bookends by pooling their resources to promote prosperity in the IMEC region.

Sanjay Pulipaka is the Chairperson of Politeia Research Foundation.

THE GIST

In 2023, the Abraham Accords had generated considerable optimism that peace would prevail in West Asia, with Israel and Arab countries working to build a stable relationship.

However, within a few weeks of the launch of the IMEC, the security situation in West Asia deteriorated significantly. The October 7 Hamas attacks, followed by Israel's military actions in the region, contributed to the deterioration in the relationship between Israel and other countries in the region.

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Why is the fiscal architecture of municipalities flawed?

Are municipal bonds the new frontier of local finance? Is over-centralisation of taxes a problem?

Tikender Singh Panwar

The story so far:

Urban India generates nearly two-thirds of the national GDP, yet its municipalities control less than one per cent of the country's tax revenue. Indian cities are not generating revenue, not because they are inefficient, but because the fiscal architecture has failed them. Today, municipal finance is dependent on intergovernmental transfers, loans, and schemes. The core of the problem lies in the centralisation of taxation powers.

How did cities lose its tax revenues?

After the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), Indian cities lost nearly 19% of their own revenue sources. Octroi, entry tax, and local surcharges – the traditional lifelines of municipal budgets – were subsumed into the GST framework. Promised compensatory mechanisms have largely bypassed the municipal level, deepening cities' dependence on State and Central grants.

Therefore, municipalities lack both fiscal autonomy and predictable revenue streams. The result is a peculiar inversion of democracy – where power is centralised and responsibility decentralised. Cities are expected to deliver solid waste management, affordable housing, climate resilience, and digital infrastructure, but without the resources to fund such services.

What about municipal bonds?

Every major policy pronouncement – from NITI Aayog's urban strategy to the latest reform-linked incentive grant – promotes bonds as the new frontier of local finance. However, the credibility of Indian municipal bonds remains abysmally low. It is not merely that cities are unable to generate capital to back their bonds; it is that the very framework of assessing credibility is skewed. A city's creditworthiness is often judged narrowly by its "own revenue" performance – property taxes, user charges, and fees – while completely discounting the regular flow of grants and transfers from higher levels of government. This is not just an accounting error; it is an ideological one. When the RBI or credit rating agencies discount grants as "non-recurring income," they perpetuate the myth that cities survive on charity. In truth, these grants are legitimate entitlements, part of a redistributive compact enshrined in the Constitution. The 74th Amendment did not conceive of cities as beggars before the State or the Union but as equal tiers of governance entitled to a share of the tax pool. Similarly, institutions like the World Bank and Asian Development Bank have long argued that cities should become "self-reliant" by focusing on property tax collection and user fees. While property tax reform is important, this narrow prescription is inadequate and unjust. It is inadequate because property tax typically accounts for only 20-25% of a city's total revenue potential, and is often politically and administratively constrained. It is unjust because it shifts the burden of urban financing disproportionately onto residents, especially in lower-income settlements already struggling with poor services. The obsession with "user pays" logic converts public goods into private commodities. Clean water, sanitation, public lighting, and mobility – these are not marketable products but collective entitlements.

What is the way ahead?

India must democratise the fiscal contract. In Scandinavian countries, where cities enjoy strong fiscal health, the local tax base is not an afterthought – it is the foundation of the welfare state. Municipalities in Denmark, Sweden, and Norway have the right to levy and collect income taxes directly, ensuring a transparent and accountable relationship between citizens and local governments.

This decentralised model has produced both efficiency and equity: citizens can see where their money goes, and cities have the flexibility to plan for the long term. Most importantly, transfers from higher levels of government are treated as part of a shared fiscal ecosystem, not as discretionary favours. India can learn from this. What is needed is a reimagined model of fiscal federalism, where municipalities have predictable, adequate, and untied revenues – both from their own sources and from constitutionally mandated transfers.

Similarly, for municipal bonds to become credible instruments, the first step is to recognise grants and shared taxes as legitimate components of city income. Only then can cities build a trustworthy balance sheet. Second, the rating system must account for the governance capacity of a city – transparency, audit compliance, citizen participation – rather than solely relying on financial metrics. Third, cities should be empowered to earmark a portion of their GST compensation or State share as collateral for municipal borrowing. Such reforms would restore the principle of cooperative federalism that the Constitution envisaged.

India's urban future depends on fiscal justice. Municipal finance must be seen not as a bookkeeping exercise but as a moral and political question. The grants that flow to cities are not gifts; they are part of a social contract. The revenues that cities generate are not charity; they are a right. True reform will begin only when India accepts that cities are not cost centres – they are the foundation of national prosperity.

Tikender Singh Panwar is a former Deputy Mayor of Shimla and currently a member of the Kerala Urban Commission.

Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

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What is the new khata system?

For the first time, Bengaluru will have a uniform khata system and this campaign is our govt.'s sixth guarantee: your property, your right, says Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As many as 15 lakh property owners in Bengaluru are expected to benefit from the 100-day campaign by the Karnataka government to convert B-Khata properties into A-Khata from November 1.

Under the new system, properties up to 2,000 sq. m will be eligible for conversion. Owners of larger properties will need to submit CAD drawings and other documents. The 100-day campaign will begin on November 1, and applicants can register online by paying a ₹500 application fee, after which civic body officials will visit homes to provide services at the doorstep.

Property owners will have to pay 5% of the guidance value as a fee to the government. "This amount will be used to provide civic amenities like electricity, water, and drainage in such layouts," Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar explained. After the 100-day period, an additional fee will be levied, details of which will be announced later.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, GBA Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao, and Additional Chief Secretary, Urban Development, Tushar Giri Nath at an event launching the new Khata conversion system in Bengaluru on Wednesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Procedure to convert B-Khata to A-Khata

For sites upto 2,000 sq. m

- Online mobile & OTP based login @https://BBMP.karnataka.gov.in/BtoAKhata
- **ePID entry of final B-Khata which is to be converted into A-Khata and Aadhaar authentification**
- Road in front of site to be 'public road' and if it is 'private road' then give consent to convert to 'public road'
- **Converted & un-converted (revenue sites) can apply. (Flats not eligible)**
- Apply with location and other details, print acknowledgement
- **Site visit and confirmation by city corporation, including declaration of the private road as public road**
- Pay fee via online (5% guidance value)
- **Automatic approval by the software system after city corporation commissioner approval**
- Automatic conversion of B-Khata to A-Khata

For sites more than 2,000 sq. m

- Apply online via registered architect or engineer online at https://BPAS.bbmpgov.in
- **Upload documents and CAD drawings of the site, pay initial scrutiny fee of ₹500, and submit the application (Flats not eligible)**
- Site inspection by city corporation, approval as per eligibility and payment of applicable fees
- **B-Khata automatically gets converted to A-Khata based on single plot approval certificate and drawing**

B-Khata issued for following type of properties

- Revenue sites carved out on the agricultural lands without approvals under the KTCP Act 1961
- **Any site on non-agricultural lands without approval under the KTCP Act 1961**
- Flats and multi-storey units constructed without building plan approval

Not related to OC, CC

Clarifying the process, Mr. Shivakumar on Wednesday said the scheme is not related to Occupancy Certificates (OC) or Completion Certificates (CC). Multi-storey B-Khata buildings will not be converted to A-Khata immediately. "We will first regularise land ownership, then assess the legality of the buildings," he said, adding that the decision aims to prevent fraudulent transactions and fake documents.

After submission, civic body officials will record photos and videos of property owners in front of their buildings and upload them online for verification. Disputed properties, government lands, Prohibition of Transfer of Certain Lands cases, and 94C lands will be excluded.

Each Bengaluru city corporation will have two help desks, and citizens can register at Bengaluru One centres. "No one should pay even a single rupee as a bribe," he warned.

"For the first time, Bengaluru will have a uniform Khata system. Earlier, we launched e-Khata, scanned all property records for digitisation, and introduced an online Khata system. Now, we are implementing Khata conversion," Mr. Shivakumar said.

"Such a decision has not been taken in the last 50 years. This campaign is our government's sixth guarantee: your property, your right."

However, Mr. Shivakumar clarified that only revenue sites under Section 61 of the KTCP Act are eligible. "Many people have built houses on these lands without officially converting them. Such properties were earlier issued B-Khatas, which made it difficult for owners to obtain bank loans or approvals for building plans. With this initiative, those difficulties will now be resolved."

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) will now oversee urban planning work previously handled by the BDA, under a single-window system to simplify processes.

EV safety braking system poses a new traffic problem

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

The BMTC bus breakdown on the Outer Ring Road (ORR) on Tuesday, which left hundreds of commuters stranded in a gridlock, taking more than two hours to cover a mere 6 km stretch, is not a one-off. According to Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) officials, the top safety brake systems of heavy electric vehicles (EVs), such as buses and trucks, are adding to Bengaluru's infamous traffic problem.

Officials say air brake-related breakdowns have become a recurring problem in the city, posing a constant challenge for traffic management. For instance, a SWITCH electric vehicle broke down near Sanjaynagar in North Bengaluru again on Wednesday, bringing traffic to a standstill for nearly an hour.

Most BMTC electric buses operating in the city are equipped with air brake systems, which rely on a continuous supply of air pressure.

In the event of a major air leak, the drop in pressure automatically applies the brakes and locks the wheels to ensure passenger safety, a spokesperson from an EV company explained.

While for the ORR incident, a company spokesperson claimed that their field officers reached the site promptly and resolved the issue.

"When the wheels lock, the brakes cannot be released until a technician trained to handle air leaks arrives on-site and unlocks them. These technicians, who work as field operators for the bus companies, often take time to reach the breakdown location. This delay means buses often remain stationary for hours, leading to prolonged congestion," a senior police officer from the Northeast subdivision explained.

A SWITCH electric vehicle, which broke down recently in North Bengaluru, brought traffic to a standstill for nearly an hour. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Under normal circumstances, police can tow stalled buses to clear at least part of the road and allow traffic movement. However, in cases where the wheels are locked, towing attempts fail, as the bus remains immobile despite efforts.

A senior officer from the West division added that such breakdowns are particularly problematic on narrow roads and in areas with poor connecting routes, where diverting traffic is nearly impossible. "On Tuesday, the combination of narrow lanes and limited connecting roads amplified the congestion," he noted.

Challenges

According to the spokesperson, ongoing infrastructure projects have left many stretches littered with nails, stones, and other sharp objects, which often hit and damage the brake system and cause leaks.

"Technicians must identify the leak and fix it using connectors or other methods, which can take 30-40 minutes," he said.

Police explained that technicians typically take 20-40 minutes to reach the site, and repairing the leak can take another 30-40 minutes or more, extending the total delay to 70-80 minutes and worsening traffic congestion.

"There is a screw in the brake system that can be loosened to release the built-up air, which eventually unlocks the wheels. This method was used on the ORR to relieve traffic," said the officer.

According to sources, traffic police have been trained in this technique and have successfully applied it in some situations. However, officers are often reluctant to attempt it themselves due to the risk of mishaps, preferring to wait for the company technicians to arrive.

Varthur, Panathur residents demand halt to property tax collection citing 'unscientific', 'incomplete' civic work

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Frustrated by recurring floods, chaotic road-related work, and unplanned civic projects, residents of the eastern parts of Bengaluru have urged the government of Karnataka to suspend property tax collection until basic infrastructure is restored.

In a letter to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, members of the Individual Tax Payers' Forum (ITPF) from Varthur, Panathur, and Balagere, a citizens' group representing income tax payers, accused civic agencies of carrying out 'unscientific, incomplete, and poorly coordinated' white-topping and drainage work that have led to severe flooding, and disruption of traffic and normal life.

Bengaluru in trouble

The letter, dated October 13, stated that despite repeated appeals and even the Chief Minister's visit to flood-hit Varthur on September 27, authorities failed to resolve the problems and have taken up patchwork, pointing to major flooding in the area on October 10 and 11.

The group alleged that drainage lines were being linked to sewage manholes, causing backflow during heavy rains. They said newly resurfaced stretches, particularly on Panathur Main Road, were getting flooded because of faulty gradient design.

An engineer supervising roadwork in the Varthur and Panathur areas under the Bengaluru City East Corporation maintained that all work is being carried out according to scientific drawings and in compliance with the Road Works Manual.

The forum has sought a scientific audit of all ongoing work, and completion of the stormwater network before any new white-topping, and stricter accountability for contractors and officials. It also urged the government to construct safe footpaths, and act against encroachments blocking natural drainage channels.

"Namma Bengaluru is globally known as India's IT hub, but such civic negligence erodes the pride and credibility of Brand Bengaluru," the forum stated. "Citizens are not against paying taxes, but want them to be reflected in better services. Give us good public infrastructure and collect tax. If the GBA continues to ignore taxpayers' requests, we request you to order them not to collect property tax from us," the letter states.

Swetha, a member of the ITPF, said that the letter, signed by close to 40 residents of the area, had been sent to the Chief Minister via email. "Let them exempt us from paying taxes. We will use that money to improve the infrastructure in our area instead of depending on them," Ms. Swetha told *The Hindu*.

An engineer supervising roadwork in the Varthur and Panathur areas under the Bengaluru City East Corporation maintained that all work is being carried out according to scientific drawings and in compliance with the Road Works Manual.

"In some locations, there have been historical encroachments on stormwater drains (SWD), as indicated by the Dishaank application. We are identifying areas with such encroachments and clearing them to facilitate road-laying, which is taking time," the official said, adding that people using these stretches despite barricades have hindered progress of the work.

'Citizen feedback to shape city's top 100 road upgrades'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a bid to improve road infrastructure and enhance citizen safety, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has launched an initiative to identify and upgrade the city's top 100 critical roads.

M. Maheshwar Rao, Chief Commissioner, GBA, held a review meeting on Wednesday with the Chief Engineers of all city corporations and explained the action plan. Each zonal chief engineer will shortlist 10 key roads in their jurisdiction, drawing from citizen feedback on issues such as potholes, damaged footpaths, inadequate lighting, flooding, and accident-prone black spots.

Mr. Rao emphasised that the focus will be on long-term, durable solutions rather than temporary repairs. "Any work carried out by BWSSB or Bescom on these roads will require GBA approval to ensure coordinated planning and execution," he said.

To maintain transparency and accountability, the authority has planned weekly review meetings to monitor progress on these critical roads. The meeting was attended by all development commissioners, chief engineers of the corporations, and other officials concerned.

City infrastructure controversy escalates, takes political turn

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The criticism of industrialist Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw about the infrastructural issues in Bengaluru took a political turn on Wednesday after Karnataka Cabinet Ministers closed ranks to counter Ms. Shaw's censure. The Bharatiya Janata Party, meanwhile, joined the fray and lashed at the ruling Congress.

Following Ms. Shaw's post on Wednesday demanding Ministers to hold GBA accountable for "shoddy and slow" work, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who had taken a conciliatory tone on the previous day, went ballistic on Wednesday.

"She is tarnishing the image of the State and the country by such social media posts. Where was she for the last 25 years? Bengaluru has made the highest contribution to her growth. Those who criticise must remember how much of land the government has given to them to establish their business in Bengaluru," said Mr. Shivakumar speaking to reporters on Wednesday.

D.K. Shivakumar

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw

MINISTERS VS SHAW

'Be patient'

Listing out government's development initiatives, including the formation of the GBA and five municipalities, Mr. Shivakumar said the critics should be patient.

"If they want to threaten us with their tweets, it is up to them. They are working against the city and the State. We are not China to take up developmental works without worrying about opposition," he hit back, taking a jibe at Ms. Shaw's comparison of the city's infrastructure with that of China.

"How many people give away their land for road widening? India is a democracy and we need to follow the due process and limitations. She has to remember where she grew up and where she grew her business. You can't kick the very ladder that helped you climb," the Deputy Chief Minister lashed out.

War of words

Mr. Shivakumar's tirade comes close on the heels of Ms. Shaw's post on Wednesday morning.

Reacting to Labour Minister Santhosh Lad, who, during a press meet, wondered whether the Biocon chief would also take up the Union government on GST issues, like how she highlighted the pothole issue in Bengaluru, Ms. Shaw said that Ministers need to hold GBA responsible for shoddy and slow work.

"We are in this dire situation because of past Govts failure to act in time. This Government has the opportunity to change this n act fast to fix these decades of deteriorating infrastructure n garbage management (sic)," she wrote on X.

More join the fray

The exchange started with Ms. Shaw, on Monday, criticising the poor state of infrastructure in the city on her X handle.

"I had an overseas business visitor to Biocon Park who said 'Why are the roads so bad and why is there so much garbage around? Doesn't the Govt want to support investment? I have just come from China and can't understand why India can't get its act together especially when the winds are favourable?'" it read.

The comment drew quick reactions from several Ministers, including IT-BT minister Priyank Kharge, and Industries Minister M.B. Patil.

BJP joins in

As the controversy grew, BJP leaders too joined the fray. "What an absolute shame that multiple Ministers of Karnataka Government are busy attacking a concerned Bengalurean instead of doing their job well," posted Tejaswi Surya, MP for Bengaluru South Lok Sabha Constituency, on his X handle.

"Instead of fixing fundamental problems, Government choosing to attack an achiever like Mazumdar-Shaw shows that it still lacks focus. It must focus on the message, instead of targeting the messenger," Mr. Surya added. C.N. Manjunath, MP for Bengaluru Rural, also posted on X supporting Ms. Shaw.

"Recent criticism on her views about Bengaluru's infrastructure is not justifiable, Kiran Mazumdar Shaw has just echoed the views of a Business Visitor to Biocon from China, I feel the GOK must take this as constructive suggestion and act accordingly in improving infrastructure facilities in Bengaluru and involving all the stakeholders in making it globally competitive," Mr. Manjunath said in his post.

Industrialists like Mohandas Pai lined behind Shaw and pointed to low quality pothole filling.

"Minister @DKShivakumar, please inspect the potholes 'fixed' , for quality. Many citizens are complaining many have already given way. Some lower level officials seem to be sabotaging your great efforts and efforts of GBA," Mr. Pai wrote on X urging the Minister to be tougher against bad work, sabotage and corruption.

DKS hits back at Nara Lokesh

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Coming down heavily on criticisms around Bengaluru's infrastructure, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said that those who criticise Bengaluru do so to "market themselves".

This came in response to Nara Lokesh, IT minister of Andhra Pradesh, who recently termed Anantapur "the better side of Bengaluru" in an interview with a media house. Hitting back, Mr. Shivakumar said, "There is no match for Bengaluru in terms of infrastructure, human resources, and innovation. Some people take the name of Bengaluru as they need it to market themselves".

'Better side'

Mr. Lokesh has been making bids to attract companies from Bengaluru to Andhra Pradesh by consistently taking jabs at the infrastructural issues in Bengaluru. "If citizens are complaining in cities that are not living up to the promises, then I think I have a right to attract that investment to Andhra Pradesh. I'm on the better side of other States," Mr. Lokesh said in the interview.

Reacting to this, Mr. Shivakumar pointed out that there are 25 lakh IT professionals and 2 lakh foreigners working in Bengaluru.

Asked about Google AI Hub going to Andhra Pradesh, he said the company is going there as the government there is giving a lot of concessions.

"How can we stop them from going to Andhra Pradesh? Let them experience other places too," he quipped.

'No one is leaving'

"No one is leaving Bengaluru. We don't have to advertise. The inherent strength of Bengaluru attracts investments," Mr. Shivakumar added.

KEYWORD

Death by devotion: hero-worship and its discontents

Why do human societies, even in the modern era of reason and information, continue to fall prey to hero-worship? Psychologists have argued that the phenomenon stems from our evolutionary wiring

Prathmesh Kher

The recent tragedy at a political rally of actor-turned-politician Vijay, where a stampede claimed the lives of several of his supporters, should shake the conscience of any well-meaning individual. The dead were mostly fans – ordinary men and women who had thronged the event not merely for politics, but to catch a glimpse of their beloved star. That they perished in their devotion is a stark reminder of how perilous the cult of hero-worship can be.

In Tamil Nadu, the incident is neither unprecedented nor wholly unexpected. The State's political history is entwined with cinema, with a lineage of actors and writers who have turned the fan's gaze into a vote bank, and then into consolidated political power. The lines between reel and real life have been blurred for decades, with film scripts doubling up as political manifestos and larger-than-life cinematic personas re-enacted on the campaign trail. Vijay's entry into politics is therefore less an anomaly than an almost natural continuation of this tradition.

However, the cult of the leader is not unique to Tamil Nadu, nor even to India. It is a feature of human societies across geographies and epochs. But in India, with its long history of reverence for individuals – from spiritual gurus to kings, from poets to film stars – the danger of confusing adulation with citizenship has always been acute.

Sea of people: TVK president and actor Vijay during his rally in Karur on September 29. MOORTHY M

Historical warnings

India's freedom struggle was not just against colonialism, but against the feudal structures of thought that propped it up. Many of the leaders of that era recognised the peril of blind devotion to individuals. They knew from history that when loyalty is transferred from ideas to personalities, democracy weakens and authoritarianism strengthens.

B.R. Ambedkar, in his historic speech to the Constituent Assembly on November 25, 1949, offered perhaps the most searing warning: "The second thing we must do is to observe the caution which John Stuart Mill has given to all who are interested in the maintenance of democracy, namely, not 'to lay their liberties at the feet of even a great man, or to trust him with power which enable him to subvert their institutions.' ... In India, Bhakti or what may be called the path of devotion or hero-worship, plays a part in its politics unequalled in magnitude by the part it plays in the politics of any other country in the world. Bhakti in religion may be a road to the salvation of the soul. But in politics, Bhakti or hero-worship is a sure road to degradation and to eventual dictatorship."

Even earlier, in a 1943 lecture, Dr. Ambedkar lamented how journalism itself had surrendered to this culture of uncritical adulation, "To accept a hero and worship him has become its principal duty. Under it, news gives place to sensation, reasoned opinion to unreasoning passion..."

The good doctor was not alone. Bhagat Singh, in his famous essay *Why I am an Atheist*, criticised precisely this tendency to treat leaders as infallible, "You go against popular feelings; you criticise a hero, a great man who is generally believed to be above criticism. What happens? No one will answer your arguments in a rational way; rather you will be considered vainglorious. ... Merciless criticism and independent thinking are the two necessary traits of revolutionary thinking. ... As Mahatmaji is great, he is above criticism ... This is not constructive thinking. We do not take a leap forward; we go many steps back." For Bhagat Singh, unquestioned devotion was not merely a political weakness but a regression of thought itself.

M.N. Roy, too, reflecting on the reputation of the Chinese leader Chiang Kai-Shek in *Men I Met*, warned against both the making of gods and the disappointment that inevitably follows, "Therefore, the objective historian must not be carried away by propaganda, for, or against him. He was neither a god nor a devil. If he failed to be a god-like hero, the fault is not his, but of the interested propagandists who wanted him to do what they wished. He was not a democrat; how could he serve the cause of democracy? He did not betray anybody; illusions about him were cruelly destroyed, because they were illusions. The disillusioned, whoever they may be, must blame themselves for the bitter experience. Hero-worship, not the man, is the real culprit." Roy's words cut to the core of the matter: it is not the leader alone who is at fault, but the society that demands heroes, invests them with expectations, and then writhes in disillusionment when reality intrudes.

The post-independence cult

Independent India's political history is dotted with examples of personality cults that often overrode institutional safeguards. During the time of Indira Gandhi, the Congress party had become almost synonymous with her persona. The slogan "Indira is India, India is Indira" encapsulated how thoroughly politics could collapse into personality. The Emergency of 1975 was a direct manifestation of the authoritarian potential of the cult of personality, evidenced by the swift return of Indira Gandhi to power after only a few years away from it.

In later decades, regional satraps – from N.T. Rama Rao in Andhra Pradesh and Bal Thackeray in Maharashtra to Lalu Prasad in Bihar – built their political fortunes not just on policy or ideology but on cult-like charisma. Their followers often saw them not as fallible leaders but as embodiments of hope, identity, or even divinity. In Tamil Nadu, this trend was perhaps the most theatrical, with MGR's fans performing rituals, and even engaging in acts of self-harm at his death.

Today, the cult of Narendra Modi stands as the most striking national example. His image dominates campaigns, policies, and even institutions. Supporters frequently collapse the distinction between nation and leader, echoing the failings of the Indira era. The problem is not unique to the BJP but the scale of PM Modi's personal cult is unprecedented in contemporary Indian politics.

Why humans worship

The question, then, is why human societies, even in the modern era of reason and information, continue to fall prey to hero-worship. Psychologists have argued that the phenomenon stems from our evolutionary wiring: in complex groups, rallying around a single leader simplifies decision-making, reduces uncertainty, and provides a sense of collective identity. Sociologists point out that in unequal societies, leaders often become projections of people's own unrealised aspirations. A farmer in rural Tamil Nadu who struggles with powerlessness may see in Vijay a redeemer who carries the promise of recognition.

But the roots of this malaise stretch back further, into the history of religion itself. In the infancy of human thought, when knowledge of the natural world was meagre, explanations were sought not in reason but in myth. Figures in sacred history – prophets, saints, and incarnations – were invested with absolute moral and metaphysical authority. Blind faith, born of ignorance, hardened into tradition, and tradition ossified into intolerance. It is this reflex of unquestioning devotion that later migrated into politics and culture.

That is why, even today, artists who dare to subject religious figures to critique – whether M.F. Husain with his paintings of Hindu goddesses, or the cartoonists of *Charlie Hebdo* in their satirical takes on Islam – are met not with debate but with violence. The parties of God, across faiths, insist that their heroes must remain inviolable, and that offence to them is unforgivable.

The American revolutionary Thomas Paine saw this clearly more than two centuries ago. "Lay then the axe to the root," he wrote, calling for an end to the deification of men and the enthronement of reason instead. Until that axe is swung against the tree of hero-worship, the cycle of adulation, betrayal, and disillusionment will repeat.

The costs of this phenomenon are borne not just by democracy but also by the people themselves. The stampede at Vijay's rally is a tragic literalisation of the phrase crushed under the "weight of devotion". But beyond such immediate tragedies, there are deeper consequences. Hero-worship erodes accountability: leaders become beyond question, their failures rationalised, their excesses forgiven. It breeds intolerance: criticism of the leader is seen as betrayal of the community or the nation. And it diminishes the citizen: instead of active participants in a democracy, people are reduced to passive spectators, awaiting cues from their chosen saviour.

Hero-worship also distorts policymaking. Rather than responding to collective needs through institutional mechanisms, policies become instruments of image-building. Welfare schemes are branded with leaders' faces and national interest is subordinated to personal prestige.

Towards a politics of institutions

The antidote to hero-worship is not cynicism but maturity – the maturity to separate admiration from adulation, respect from surrender. Leaders can and should be admired for their vision, their achievements, and their service. But admiration must not curdle into devotion. The republic's health depends on the vigilance of its citizens and the strength of its institutions. Citizens must reflect not only on the culture of film-star politics but also on the fragility of its democracy when fandom substitutes for citizenship. India must heed the warnings of its founding figures and reinvest in building institutions that command loyalty beyond the lifespan of individual leaders.

Ultimately, the lesson is as much about politics as it is about human society at large. Whether in religion, in nationalism, or in celebrity culture, the temptation to worship heroes is perennial. It offers the comfort of certainty and belonging. But the price is almost always the same: disempowerment, manipulation, and, in the worst cases, tragedy.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know Your English

Upendran

"Would you lend me Rs. 50?"

"Sorry, I am hard up right now."

"You're hard up? But how can you be poor? You have a job! You..."

"...do you know what 'hard up' means?"

"It means the same thing as 'poor', doesn't it?"

"No, it doesn't. When you say you're 'hard up', it means that you are temporarily short of money. The lack of funds is not a permanent situation, but only a temporary one."

"I see. So even someone who is extremely rich can be hard up sometimes!"

"That's right! My friend Ramesh becomes so hard up by the end of the month that he has to borrow money for tea!"

"My father was pretty hard up after he finished renovating the house."

"When you start your own business, you may be hard up for a while."

"But later when the money starts pouring in and you become rich, you..."

"...not just rich, but stinking rich! Then you..."

"'Stinking rich'? What does it mean?"

"When you refer to someone as being stinking rich, it means that he/she is extremely rich. It is an informal expression. For example, some of my cousins are stinking rich."

"I wish I had friends who were stinking rich. Then I could borrow money from them."

"That's true. Unfortunately, most of our friends are not stinking rich. They..."

"...they merely stink!"

"That's not a nice thing to say about your friends."

"I know! It must be this terrible weather that's making me say such things. While we are on the subject of 'stink', what exactly is the difference between 'stink' and 'smell'?"

"A 'smell' can be pleasant or unpleasant. I love the smell of early morning coffee."

"My grandmother loves the smell of agarbathis."

"So does mine. I hate the smell of dirty socks."

"I hate the smell of sweat."

"Then it's a good thing that you were nowhere near Chennai last week. I was literally sweating it out."

"What does 'stink' mean?"

"'Stink' is usually associated with unpleasant smells."

"In other words, smells that make you want to hold your nose!"

"Exactly! During the summer, the street Raju lives on stinks of rotting fish."

"Our school bathroom always stinks."

"Most bathrooms do. When I walked into the hospital, it stank of vomit."

"Sounds terrible. I've often heard people say, 'His book stinks'. Do they mean that the book smells bad?"

"No! No! When you say something stinks, it means that you think it is extremely bad or unpleasant. For example, your favourite hero's latest movie stinks."

"Meaning the movie is terrible?"

"That's right!"

Published in The Hindu on June 16, 1998.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

A quiz on the Ranji Trophy, the latest edition of which commenced on Wednesday

Srinivasan Ramani

QUESTION 1
This question pertains to K.S. Ranjitsinhji, on whose name the domestic trophy was instituted in India in 1935. Name the English county for which the Indian prince turned out the most in his first class career.

QUESTION 2
This Ranji great, who never played a single Test for India, but held the record for the most runs in the Ranji Trophy (which was subsequently eclipsed by Wasim Jaffer) is currently the coach of the Indian women's cricket team. Name him.

QUESTION 3
Who holds the highest batting average (98.35) in the Ranji trophy?

QUESTION 4
The person with the second highest batting average (85.62) was also the youngest to score a century on his debut in the Trophy. But another youngster, who tragically passed away in a road accident just after he turned 18, held the record of being the youngest to score 1,000 runs in the Trophy. Name him.

QUESTION 5
Which Bengal player holds the record for the most wickets (and fewest runs conceded) in an innings (10/20), which he achieved against Assam in 1956/57?

Visual question:
Vidarbha won the Ranji Trophy for the third time in the previous season (2024-25). This slow left-arm orthodox bowler played a key role in this tournament win, by picking 69 wickets, highest in any Ranji season. Identify him. PTI

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The title A.P.J Abdul Kalam was mainly associated with. **Ans: Missile Man of India**
2. It is said that Kalam narrowly missed out on this ambition of his. **Ans: Indian Air Force**
3. Kalam was the project director of India's first satellite launch vehicle which deployed this satellite. **Ans: Rohini**
4. The definition of Kalam-Raju stents and Kalam-Raju tablets. **Ans: Kalam worked with cardiologist Bhupathiraju Somaraju and developed a low cost coronary stent, named the "Kalam-Raju stent" and designed a tablet computer named the "Kalam-Raju tablet"**
5. This is the toughest decision he had to take during his tenure as the President. **Ans: Office of profit**
Visual: Identify this person. **Ans: Lakshmi Sahgal. She was the sole opponent of Kalam during the 2002 presidential elections**
Early Birds: C. Saravanan| Tom Alan Faith| Tito Shiladitya| Arjun Debnath| Piyali Tuli

Word of the day

Adulation:
servile flattery; exaggerated and hypocritical praise

Usage: *His skills have brought him adulation beyond belief.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/adulationpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˌædʒʊˈleɪʃən/, /ˌædjʊˈleɪʃən/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

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Northeast monsoon likely to set over Karnataka today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

According to an IMD forecast, heavy rainfall is expected in several parts of the State over the next three days

The northeast monsoon is very likely to commence over Karnataka from Thursday.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD), Bengaluru, has forecast that with the arrival of the northeast monsoon, there would be heavy rainfall in several parts of the state over the next three days and would gradually reduce from October 19 onwards.

"As the northeast monsoon will set over the southern peninsular region, several parts of Karnataka will receive heavy rainfall in the next three days," C.S. Patil, scientist and director, IMD Bengaluru said.

Widespread showers

Mr. Patil added that the rainfall would be widespread daily over south interior Karnataka and the coastal Karnataka region. Over north interior Karnataka, there would be scattered light to moderate rainfall. "Conditions are favourable for further withdrawal of the southwest monsoon from remaining parts of the country during the next 24 hours," IMD said.

"Simultaneously with the setting in of easterly and northeasterly winds over southern peninsular India and south and adjoining central Bay of Bengal, the northeast monsoon rainfall activity is likely to commence over south east peninsular region during the same period," it added.

In Bengaluru

The local weather forecast for Bengaluru city and the neighbourhood for the next three days is generally cloudy sky with light to moderate rain and thundershowers likely to occur. The maximum and minimum temperatures are very likely to be around 29°C and 21°C respectively.

Enumerators struggle amid long hours of survey work

'We are working without breaks and holidays to finish the task within the stipulated time. Now, to say that we should work from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. is inhuman. This has put us under mental stress'

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The enumerators engaged in Social and Educational Survey under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) limits are quite baffled by the recent order by the authorities asking them to conduct the survey from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. in order to complete the process within the stipulated time.

They said that they were being slapped with show-cause notices by the authorities for not meeting targets on one hand, while facing non-cooperation from the public on the other.

The Chief Secretary, in a letter to the Chief Commissioner of GBA on October 13, had said that only 30% of houses under GBA limits had been surveyed. "It is difficult to extend the survey period," the letter read.

The Chief Secretary had instructed the GBA Chief Commissioner and the five zonal commissioners to take immediate action to speed up the process. Following this, new timings for the survey had been set for the GBA area.

There are many instances of having to visit one household multiple times in order to complete the survey, says an enumerator.
FILE PHOTO

As on Wednesday, out of a total of about 46 lakh households to be surveyed under GBA limits, a little over 15 lakh had been surveyed (about 33%).

"We are working without breaks and holidays to finish work within the stipulated time. Now, to say we should work from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. is inhuman. This has put us under mental stress," said an enumerator.

Another enumerator stated that there are multiple instances of having to visit one household multiple times to complete the survey. Blanket non-cooperation is also quite common, he said.

"When a family says they will not participate in the survey, we ask them to sign in the application in this regard as a record of their choice. They refuse and some even insult us," said the enumerator. "There were also instances of physical attack, but when we brought them to the notice of supervisors, they simply did not believe us," he said, adding that it would be better if the government provides them with body cameras so that what they through is believed by the authorities.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa said, "Our teachers are conducting the survey successfully amidst many difficulties. Cases have been registered against those who misbehave with the enumerators. If the officials unnecessarily harass the teachers during the survey, I will appeal to the government to take action against them. It is inexcusable if the people of Bengaluru refuse to vote or participate in such surveys. This survey is being conducted to bring social equality. The public should understand."

Two arrested for assaulting student

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The R.T. Nagar police on Tuesday arrested an ambulance driver and his friend for allegedly assaulting a PU student with a knife on the college campus over a trivial row on Saturday.

The victim, a II PU student at a private college in R.T. Nagar, first block, got treatment at the hospital before filing a complaint with the police on Tuesday.

Based on the complaint, the police arrested the accused within 24 hours. The accused, identified as Prabhudev, an ambulance driver, and Ganesh, a kitchen staff in a hotel, have been booked for assault with dangerous weapons and under the Arms Act, the police said.

Probe revealed that the accused was a former student of the college and allegedly miffed about the victim talking to a girl in the college, with whom the accused was close. The accused dropped out of college and started working as an ambulance driver, the police said. The duo has been remanded in judicial custody, and further investigations are on.

APPOINTMENT

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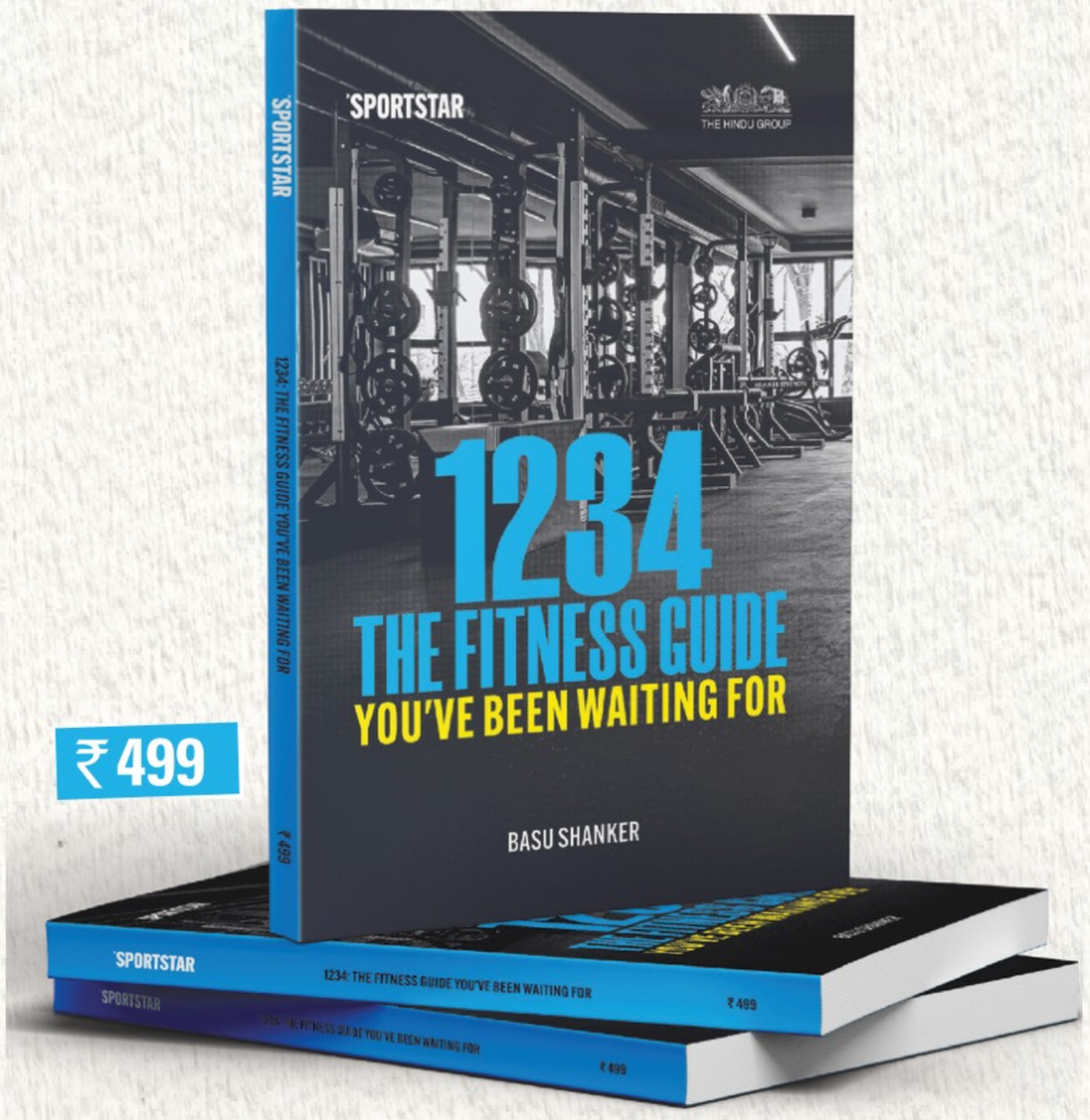

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Minister posts video of threat call; source of calls being traced

Neither Priyank not I will fear such threats, says Siddaramaiah; Chief Minister finds nothing wrong in Priyank Kharge's demand that RSS be banned from holding activities on government premises

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A day after Karnataka's IT-BT and Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge said he had been "receiving threat calls" for demanding a ban on Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and its activities on government properties, he posted a video on X on Wednesday where a man can be heard abusing the Minister in harsh and unparliamentary language.

Calling it a sample of the threatening and abusive calls he had been receiving, Mr. Kharge said the video "is a small example of the kind of filth the RSS is trying to fill in the minds of young people".

Police deployed at Minister of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Priyank Kharge's residence in Bengaluru on Wednesday.
SUDHAKARA JAIN

Will be brought to book

Meanwhile, Home Minister G. Parameshwara has said that he has already issued instructions to verify the source of threatening phone calls and social media posts against Mr. Kharge.

He said the accused would be traced and brought to book.

Mr. Kharge, speaking on the calls, said, "While the children of BJP leaders are building their bright future, children from poor and disadvantages families are being used as sacrificial goats to abuse and threaten others. If I lodge a complaint, it will only hurt this person's life and cause no harm to those who pushed him into such a state of mind."

In the video, which is a recording of the phone conversation between Mr. Kharge and an unidentified man, the caller can be heard using abuses in Hindi directed at the Minister's mother. In response to this, Mr. Kharge demanded to know whether BJP leaders from Karnataka such as B.Y. Vijayendra, R. Ashok, C.T. Ravi, V. Sunil Kumar, Pratap Simha, Chalavadi Narayanaswamy and others "would find it acceptable if such abuses were hurled at mothers of Modi and Mohan Bhagwat?"

"If they thought I would be rattled by these threats and insults, they are delusional. Mine is not just power-centric politics, it is ideological politics, a people-centric politics that strives to bring innocent youth out of this vicious circle," the Minister said.

Speaking to reporters at Mysuru airport, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said there was nothing wrong in Mr. Kharge's demand that RSS be banned from holding activities on government premises. About threat calls, he said, "This is what evil forces do. Neither I nor Priyank will fear such threats."

Adding that he had instructed the Chief Secretary to study the measures taken by Tamil Nadu government to restrict the activities of the RSS there, he said action would be taken once the report is submitted. He also said that Mr. Kharge would be given security.

Kharge's letter to CM

On Sunday (October 12, 2025), the day RSS held 100 events across Bengaluru (many on school grounds and other government premises), Mr. Kharge demanded that such activities not be allowed on government properties. He said in his letter to the Chief Minister, "In the interest of the well-being of the country's children, youth, the public, and society as a whole, I earnestly request that a ban be imposed on all types of activities conducted by the RSS, whether under the name of shakha, sanghik, or baithak on the premises of government properties."

'Not possible to ban RSS'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amidst the demand for banning activities of RSS on premises of government properties, BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra on Wednesday maintained that it was impossible to ban the RSS.

Speaking to mediapersons in Chitradurga, Mr. Vijayendra asserted, "The Congress government at the Centre had once banned the RSS, but had to finally withdraw, though the BJP did not have a strong presence in the country. Now the BJP not only has a strong presence in the country, but also has a strong leadership in Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Apart from the Centre, the BJP is also in power in several States. That being the case, talking about banning RSS is height of foolishness," he said. He accused the Congress government of trying to divert public attention from its alleged failures on all fronts by making demands such as banning the RSS.

Launching a tirade against RDPR and IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge, who has alleged that he has been getting threat call, he said Mr. Kharge was trying to "get publicity out it."

Devadasi survey likely to be extended by a month

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

The ongoing re-survey of Devadasis in Karnataka might be extended by one more month till December 31, *The Hindu* has learnt from highly placed sources.

The survey, which commenced on September 15, was planned to be held for 45 working days, ending on November 21.

"However, considering the complex and time-consuming nature of the survey, the Minister for Women and Child Development has directed for an extension. The order is yet to be issued," an official said.

Around 20 days into the survey, only about 15,000 Devadasi women across 15 districts in the State have enrolled themselves. The documented number of Devadasi women during the 2008-2009 survey was 46,660. The current enrolment number is only around one-third of this, hinting at slow progress.

One of the demands in the letters sent by the Karnataka Vimuktha Devadasi Mahila Mathu Makkala Vedike and the Centre for Study of Inclusion at the National Law School of India University to the government was an extension of the survey timeline. According to the activists, the awareness among community members about the survey remained low, and the survey mandate to obtain multiple documents from different departments was time-consuming.

The Karnataka State Women's Development Corporation on Wednesday held a review meeting in which around 60 women from the Devadasi community participated.

Manjula Malagi, convener at the vedike, expressed optimism after reportedly receiving positive responses from the government officials.According to her, one of the biggest difficulties before the community members, especially children of deceased Devadasi women, was to prove their Devadasi family tree.

Mahesh Babu, MD at WCD, noted that multiple options are in place already for the same. "There are already databases of Aadhaar holders – living and dead – and the 32,000 Devadasi women are receiving pension. But there are a few who died before receiving the Aadhaar and whose family need to be registered in the current survey. Those families can approach the officials who maintain the birth and death registrar via DC. We have informed those officials regarding the survey."

HC restrains use of 'strip and search' method for transgenders

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday restrained the government from adopting "strip and search" method to identify transgender persons during the ongoing transgender survey across the State.

Also, the Court directed that the State government and the persons conducting survey should, before calling the transgender persons to participate in the survey, inform that the participation in survey is voluntary.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C.M. Poonacha passed the interim order on a PIL petition filed by Anita Humanitarian Foundation, a Mysuru-based NGO.

Meanwhile, the court directed the Department of Social Welfare, which is conducting the survey, to keep any information collected during the survey confidential and not disseminated, and asking the department to file an affidavit on manner in which confidentiality of survey data would be maintained.

Contending that the survey is violative of the provisions of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, and the provisions of the Constitution of India, the petitioner sought a direction to discontinue the survey, commenced from September 15, 2025.

Mallikarjun Kharge is welcome to enter State politics: Parameshwara

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Home Minister G. Parameshwara on Wednesday said if All India Congress Committee (AICC) president Mallikarjun Kharge decides to enter State politics, he is "most welcome". This statement comes amid the ongoing "leadership change" debate in the State.

Speaking to presspersons in Bengaluru, Mr. Parameshwara said in response to a question, "Any decision taken by the high command, particularly if Mr. Kharge wants to come to Karnataka, will be respected. He is a tall leader, and if he chooses to return to Karnataka politics, we will receive him with respect."

On the question of a possible leadership change in the Karnataka government, he pointed out that he is not competent to answer that question. "It entirely depends on the high command. Whether there will be a change, and if so, who will be the probable candidate, I am not in a position to answer."

MLAs' support for DKS

Meanwhile, some MLAs have again spoken in support of Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's candidature for the Chief Minister's post.

Congress MLA H.C. Balakrishna said that Mr. Shivakumar has worked hard to bring the Congress to power in the State. "I am confident that the high command will give him an opportunity. I trust the high command on this, as they are fully aware of the work done by Mr Shivakumar," he stated.

Another Congress MLA, Belur Gopal Krishna, said, "Both Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister Shivakumar have contributed to the party. It is up to the high command to make decisions, and we will follow their orders."

Referring to the proposed Cabinet reshuffle, Mr. Gopal Krishna said, "A new Cabinet should be formed instead of just a reshuffle, which only benefits certain leaders."

No illegality in arrest of MLA in money laundering case: HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday dismissed a petition questioning the legality of the arrest of K.C. Veerendra, Congress MLA for Chitradurga constituency, by the ED in connection with a money laundering case related to alleged illegal online and offline betting.

Justice M.I. Arun passed the order while rejecting the petition filed by R.D. Chaitra, wife of Mr. Veerendra.

It was alleged in the petition that some of the criminal cases registered on illegal betting by the State police way back in 2015, 2016 and 2022, which were not in existence at present, were relied upon by the ED to initiate the alleged money laundering proceedings.

However, the court found that one FIR is still pending, even though "B" report was filed after investigation. The court stated that there is material with the ED that gives sufficient reason to believe that Mr. Veerendra is allegedly guilty of offence of money laundering under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

ANDHRA UNIVERSITY VISAKHAPATNAM
No.AU/AUCC/Comp/2025-26/1R.
No.AU/AUCC/Comp/2025-26/2.
Date:15-10-2025
TENDER NOTICE
E-tenders are invited through e-procurement for supply of Desktop Computers to Andhra University, Visakhapatnam. **Last Date: 30-10-2025**
For details visit:
https:// tender.apeprocurement.gov.in.
Sd/- Registrar

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby stated that my client, Mrs. Rekha S. Manae W/o Manju M, has lost the Original Sale Deed while shifting residence from JP Nagar 2nd Phase to JP Nagar 1st Phase on 10.09.2025. bearing Document No. 4105-1977-78, Book No. 01, registered on 14.12.1977 at the Bangalore South Sub-Registrar's Office which was originally sold by Mrs. Venkatamma in favour of Mr. Abbayya With respect to the property situated at Marenahalli Palya, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, bearing Property No. 131/1 presently owned by my client, and my client has now discovered that the aforesaid Original Sale Deed has been lost at #3, 7th A cross, 18th B main, JP Nagar 2nd Phase, Bangalore-560078.
In this regard, a police complaint has been lodged with the jurisdictional police station vide Lost Report No.1850559/2025 dated:14th October 2025.
Public are informed that the Finder/s of the above said deed is requested to hand over the same to the undersigned.
Sachin Yallaraddi Advocate, B.E., LL.B
Mob: +91 9482102696
Council for Mrs.Rekha S Manae
W/o Manju M
Address: #8A, 6th Main, Chamundeswari Layout, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore-560007.
Place: Bengaluru Date: 16-10-2025

aptdc ANDHRA PRADESH TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
#55-17-2 to 4, 5th Floor, Stalin Building, Autonagar, VIJAYAWADA-7.E-mail : engg@aptdc.in
"e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Tender Notice No. 12/SE/Engg/APTDC/2025-26, Dt: 15-10-2025
Name of the works : APTDC Limited is inviting bid for the work :
1. Procurement, Supply and Installation of furniture for APTDC Hotel At Ahobilam in Nandyal District, Est. Rs.70.15 lakhs.
2. Expression of Interest (EoI) for Empanelment of reputed Agencies for Third Party Quality Control Assurance for Engineering Works in APTDC, Andhra Pradesh.
The details can be seen at www. apeprocurement.gov.in, for further clarification please contact on 9848306437. Sd/- Smt. Amrapali Kata, IAS, VC & Managing Director.

अजमेर विकास प्राधिकरण, अजमेर
टाउनहाल रोड, सिविल लाईन्स, अजमेर, Email :- ajmerada@gmail.com,
Website :- www.rajasthan.gov.in/ada, Tel.No. :- 0145-2627748-2627749
क्रमांक :- अविप्रा/प.2/तकनीकी/2025-26/राजकाज 18272593 दिनांक :- 10/10/2025
E-TENDER - 37/2025-26
Bids for various work amounting Rs. 1044.45 Lacs are invited from interested bidders for up to 06.11.2025, 6:00 pm. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on procurement portal **(http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in) & (http://sppp.raj.nic.in) http://www.urban.rajasthan.gov.in/ada** departmental website.
UBN No. : AJD2526WSOB00159 - 161
Raj.Samwad/C/25/12165 **Executive Engineer**

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग-बीकानेर
क्रमांक- 1618 दिनांक - 4/10/2025
(DIPR/C/12867/2025 Date 09-09-2025)
बिड सूचना संख्या 09/25-26 की निविदा संशोधन
NIB CODE:-PWD2526A2981
इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 1260 दिनांक 28.08.2025 द्वारा जारी बिड सूचना संख्या 09/25-26 बजट घोषणा के अन्तर्गत सड़क निर्माण कार्य में निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है :-

क्र.सं.	मद	मूल निविदा में अंकित दिनांक	संशोधित तिथियाँ
1	बिड जमा करवाने एवं अपलोड करने की तिथि	दिनांक 08.09.2025 प्रातः 9.30 बजे से 06.10.2025 सायं 06.00 बजे तक	दिनांक 08.09.2025 प्रातः 9.30 बजे से 06.11.2025 सायं 06.00 बजे तक
2	बिड खोलने की तिथि	07.10.2025 को प्रातः 11.00 बजे	07.11.2025 को प्रातः 11.00 बजे
3	प्री-बिड मीटिंग	दिनांक 25.09.2025 प्रातः 11.00 बजे	दिनांक 27.10.2025 प्रातः 11.00 बजे

UBN Code No.
PWD2526WLOB11203 | PWD2526WLOB11205
शेष शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।
DIPR/C/15001/2025 अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सानिवि संभाग-बीकानेर

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER PWD ZONE KOTA
No. 2446 Date 07.10.2025
Short Term NIT No. 35/2025-26
Notice Inviting Bid
NIB No. PWD2526A3718
Bids for **Budget Announcement Year 2025-26 Road Works in Kota District PWD Zone Kota** are invited **Road work** from interested bidders **upto 6.00 pm, 24.10.2025**. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the **Rajasthan** and **http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in** website. The approximate value of the procurement is **Rs. 1433.22 lacs. (3 Pkg.)**
UBN No.
1. PWD2526WSOB13989
2. PWD2526WSOB13990
3. PWD2526WSOB13991
Addl. Chief Engineer
PWD Zone Kota
DIPR/C/15044/2025

e-DIT
CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF IMAGING TECHNOLOGY (C-DIT)
Thiruvananthapuram-27
Ph: 0471-2380910/912
E-TENDER NOTICE
e-Tenders are invited for the supply of label Stock Paper for Hologram Label Printing
1. Label stock Paper @167 mm Tender id: 2025_CDIT_810384_1
2. Label stock Paper @250 mm Tender id: 2025_CDIT_810417_1
Last date of submission of bids: **25.10.2025, 03.00 PM.**
For details and online submission of bid Please visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
15.10.2025 Registrar, C-DIT

Email ID: se_nerwkjr@rediffmail.com
GOVT. OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE: KEONJHAR
Identification No. NCB-20/ RWCKJR / 2025-26
No. 4338 // Date: 10.10.25 //
1. Name of the work :- Repair / Maintenance of the Rural roads Constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the District of Keonjhar.
2. Total No. of Packages :- 02 (Two) Nos.
3. Estimated Cost (Approx.) :- From Rs.126.03 lakh to Rs.286.88 lakh (Approximately)
4. Period of completion :- 60 Calendar Months.
5. Other details :-

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	No. of Work	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From	To
1	2	3	4	5
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Keonjhar	NCB-20 / RWCKJR / 2025-26	02 Nos.	18.10.2025 at 11.00 A.M	03.11.2025 Upto 5.00 P.M

● Further details can be seen from the website: www.pmgsytenders.gov.in
O-997 : Chief Construction Engineer, R.W. Circle, Keonjhar.
OIPR-25177/11/0096/2526

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

OBITUARY

S Devendra
Jun 06, 1964 – Oct 15, 2025
Nayak S Devendra Retd. (61), dedicated and respected veteran, was called to eleternal rest on October 15, 2025.
Born June 6, 1964, he served the nation valiantly. He is survived by his beloved wife, Geetha; Ravi and Sudha; children, Dr. Jeevitha, Praveen and Hasini. He will be deeply missed.

DEATH

In Loving Memory

With profound sorrow, we announce that our beloved mother,
Smt.**GOMATHI KALYANASUNDARAM** (102 years)
w/o Late Sri **V. Kalyanasundaram**
Retired Engineer, Southern Railways
attained ***Shiva Loka Praapthi*** on 13th October 2025.
Affectionately remembered by:
K.Venkateswaran, K.Seshadri, Hema Ramanathaswamy, Lakshmi Ramakrishnan, Uma Subramanian with family and grandchildren, great grandchildren & great great grandchildren
Contact: **K. Venkateswaran**
91-7305051039, kalvenky@gmail.com

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
Bengaluru: 98455 29981,
Hubballi: 0836 - 2338600
Mangaluru: 0824 - 2417575,
from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Online booking: www.thehinduads.com
DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

POLICE DEPARTMENT
Office of the Commissioner of Police, Benagluru City
No: COPBCP/EST/EST3(MISC)/70/2023 Date:10.10.2025
FILLING UP TECHNICAL POSTS IN CYBER CRIME POLICE STATIONS IN BENGALURU CITY
Applications are invited for the following 05 Technical Posts to be filled in Cyber Crime Police Stations under Commissioner of Police, Bengaluru City, on Contract Basis:

Post	No. of Posts
Digital Forensic Analyst	5

Start date for application submission: **15.10.2025 from 10.00 AM.**
Last date of application submission: **29.10.2025 by 6.00 PM.**
Detailed Notification for the above posts is published on the website of Karnataka State Police at **https://ksp.karnataka.gov.in** and the website of Bengaluru City Police at **www.bcp.gov.in**
The applicants may refer to these website's for the complete details and may submit their application to this office address: No. 01, Infantry Road, Commissioner of Police, Bengaluru-560001 or via email to **dcpadminbcp@ksp.gov.in.**
Sd/- (Ajay Hilori, IPS)
Joint Commissioner of Police (Crime), Bengaluru City
DIPR/DD-C.P/3221/KSMCA/2025-26

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.
INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Through KPP Portal Only)
BWSSB invites Tenders from registered Agencies for the following Works.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last Date & Time for Submission of Tender	Date & Time for Opening of Tender
1	East-1	BWSSB/EE(East)-1/PB/2753/2025-26 Dated: 09-10-2025 (11th Call) (Tender Indent No.1772)	Rs. 33,47,082/- / Rs. 67,000/-	28-10-2025 Upto 4.00 PM	30-10-2025 After 5.00 PM
2		BWSSB/EE(East)-1/PB/2753/2025-26 Dated: 09-10-2025 (14th Call) (Tender Indent No.1771)	Rs. 44,62,393/- / Rs. 89,300/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (East-1)
The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-Procurement Portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.
DIPR/CP/Adverto/3291/2025-26

INBRIEF

Police destroy nearly 10,000 ganja plants in Attappady

The police on Tuesday destroyed a large number of ganja plants illegally cultivated for commercial gain deep inside the forests of Attappady in Kerala. They said nearly 10,000 plants, with three months' growth, were eradicated from 60 cents of land in the Pudur forest area. A joint team comprising the members of the Anti-Terrorist Squad, District Anti Narcotics Special Action Force and Pudur police station took part in the raid. They said it was one of the biggest anti-ganja operations by the Kerala Police.

'Pepper spray' incident: nine students, teacher hospitalised

Nine students and a teacher of Government Higher Secondary School, Punnamoodu in Thiruvananthapuram, were admitted to Government Medical College Hospital for observation owing to 'inhalation injury' on Wednesday. Students complained of respiratory difficulty after a chemical, reportedly pepper spray, was released in the classroom. The condition of the students was said to be stable.

Woman 'raped' at knifepoint on running train in Guntur

A woman was allegedly raped at knifepoint on a moving train in Guntur. The victim lodged a complaint with the Cherlapalli railway police, which transferred the case to Nadikudi police station. According to the complaint, the woman boarded a coach designated for female passengers of Santragachi Express at Rajamahendravaram. The accused, who boarded the train in Guntur, raped the woman at knifepoint.

Former Kenya PM Raila Odinga dies in Kerala

Odinga suffers cardiac failure during his morning walk; he was undergoing Ayurvedic treatment in Ernakulam after suffering a stroke; Kerala Governor pays tributes to the departed leader

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Raila Odinga, former Prime Minister of Kenya, died at a private hospital in Koothattukulam in Ernakulam district of Kerala on Wednesday. He was 80.

He suffered a cardiac failure around 8 a.m. during his morning walk at Sreedhareeyam Ayurvedic Eye Hospital-cum-Research Centre in Koothattukulam where he had been under treatment for the past five days. He was rushed to Devamatha Hospital in Koothattukulam, where his death was confirmed at 9.52 a.m. The authorities at Sreedhareeyam Hospital said he had initially sought treatment at a private hospital in Mumbai after suffering a stroke.

Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar paying last respects to Raila Odinga in Ernakulam on Wednesday. ANI

Signs of recovery

He was accompanied by his youngest daughter and a personal doctor. Though he had arrived at the Sreedhareeyam hospital in a wheelchair, he had shown signs of recovery after undergoing Ayurveda treatment, they added.

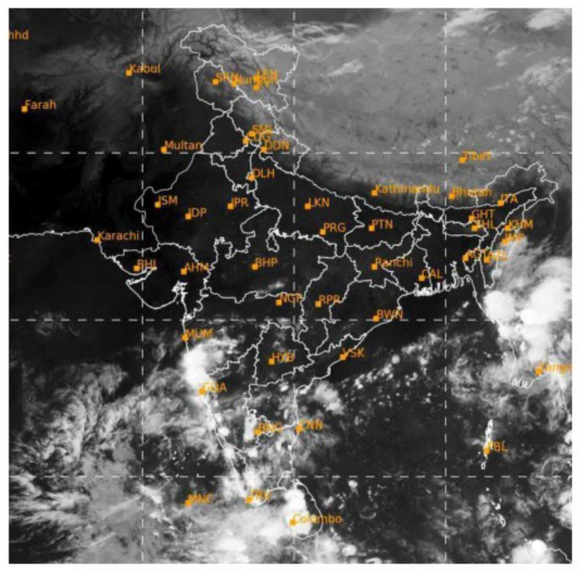
His body was later shifted to the Government Medical College Hospital, Ernakulam, for post-mortem examination.

Odinga had a close connection with the hospital as his elder daughter Rosemary Odinga had undergone treatment there after she had lost her sight in 2017. He had expressed gratitude to the physicians at the centre for helping her regain her vision. He had served as the Leader of the Opposition in Kenya for many years.

Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar paid tributes to the departed leader when his body was kept at the Kochi airport. The body would be flown to Mumbai on a non-scheduled flight soon, according to a release.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.45 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala, Mahe and Lakshadweep. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Odisha, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Marathwada, Konkan & Goa and coastal Karnataka

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	34.4	24.9	Kozhikode	10	32.4	25.2
Ahmedabad	—	34.8	20.6	Kurnool	—	33.5	23.9
Aizawl	—	31.7	21.3	Lucknow	—	31.9	19.6
Allahabad	—	34.0	20.0	Madurai	3	33.8	24.3
Bengaluru	0.4	27.6	21.2	Mangaluru	—	31.3	23.4
Bhopal	—	31.4	20.6	Mumbai	—	34.9	22.2
Bhubaneswar	—	33.4	22.6	Mysuru	—	30.2	20.2
Chandigarh	—	32.8	19.4	New Delhi	—	32.5	18.3
Chennai	0.7	30.6	25.0	Patna	—	31.9	22.6
Coimbatore	—	30.6	23.2	Port Blair	4	30.6	25.0
Dehradun	—	30.7	17.8	Puducherry	0.2	29.9	23.5
Gangtok	—	24.4	14.5	Pune	—	33.9	21.4
Goa	—	34.4	25.2	Raipur	—	32.4	22.9
Guwahati	—	34.3	24.5	Ranchi	—	29.0	19.6
Hubballi	—	29.0	22.0	Shillong	—	28.0	15.0
Hyderabad	—	31.0	22.1	Shimla	—	23.2	12.8
Imphal	—	31.5	23.6	Srinagar	—	26.3	8.3
Jaipur	—	32.0	19.2	Thiruvananthapuram	31	32.3	23.5
Kochi	2	30.4	24.8	Tiruchi	—	29.5	24.4
Kohima	—	27.0	16.0	Vijayawada	14	36.1	24.4
Kolkata	—	33.0	24.0	Visakhapatnam	3	32.4	25.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.42	..49	33	... 162	...158	
Bengaluru	...6	..25	50	 95	70	
Chennai	.15	..14	59	 47	68	
Delhi	.18	..97	44	... 243	...322	
Hyderabad	.18	..10	33	 51	89	
Kolkata	...8	..50	26	 76	...207	
Lucknow	.17	..38	42	... 169	...132	
Mumbai	...4	..67	40	... 227	...251	
Pune	..—	..26	26	... 251	...214	
Visakhapatnam	...9	..26	16	... 116	...111	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Noida, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 318 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 11

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Four of family killed as lorry rams scooter

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Four members of a family, including two children, were killed on the spot in a head-on collision between a tipper lorry and an electric two-wheeler at Jangampally in Kamareddy district on Wednesday afternoon.

The victims were identified as M. Kishan, 55, his 28-year-old daughter Josleena, and two grandchildren, Joel, 4, and three-month-old Zadsyn.

The accident took place when the family was travelling from Kamareddy to a Biknoor Primary Health Centre for the vaccination of Josleena's youngest son, on an EV scooter.

"The tipper driver, who was on the wrong side, drove rashly and hit the two-wheeler, leading to their death on the spot," said Kamareddy Rural Inspector Raman.

SC criticises A.P. HC for stalling bail hearing

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Stressing that bail pleas must be heard expeditiously wherever personal liberty is at stake, the Supreme Court on Wednesday said it was "dismayed" at an October 9 order of the Andhra Pradesh High Court that restrained the trial court from considering the bail plea of YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) general secretary Cheviredy Bhaskar Reddy in an alleged multi-crore liquor scam. "We do not approve of the same [HC order]," the Bench observed.

The case is being probed by a Special Investigation Team in the State.

The High Court had directed the trial court to defer consideration of Mr. Reddy's bail plea until it decided the State's petition seeking cancellation of the regular bail granted earlier to a co-accused in the case.

Harvest ride

A farmer taking his harvest to the market near Athreyapuram in Ambedkar Konaseema district of Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday. Banana is one of the major horticultural crops cultivated in the State, particularly in the fertile Godavari delta region. G.N.RAO

Aland case: SIT raids four suspects who 'made' forged Form 7 applications

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the alleged voter fraud in Aland has achieved a major breakthrough.

SIT sleuths on Wednesday raided the residences of four suspects, who allegedly made the forged Form 7 applications to maliciously delete genuine voters from the rolls. All the four suspects are from Kalaburagi district. The four were reportedly working in a call centre-like set-up in Kalaburagi in 2023, from where the forged Form 7s were allegedly made.

Sources said that the SIT questioned them and also recovered multiple electronic devices which would be subjected to forensic examination. Some of these devices were said to have been used to make the forged Form 7 applications. Following a complaint by B.R. Patil, Congress candidate in the 2023 polls, that forged Form 7s were submitted to delete the names of his supporters from the rolls, an inquiry by the Returning Officer (RO) found that of the 6,018 Form 7s, 5,994 were forged.

B.R. Patil

Miscreants had applied to delete voters misusing the credentials of other voters, with neither being in the know. Based on a complaint by the RO, an FIR was registered on February 21, 2023.

The Hindu had on September 7, 2025, reported that the investigation into the case had gone cold, as despite 18 reminders, the Election Commission of India (ECI) had not shared key technical data to geolocate the systems used to make these forged Form 7s. Following the report and a press conference by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi flagging the case, the State government formed a SIT, led by B. K. Singh, Additional Director-General of Police, Criminal Investigation Department.

The ECI was yet to share this data. However, the SIT had achieved a breakthrough identifying suspects who allegedly made these forged Form 7 applications, said sources. However, they added that the investigation was still in a preliminary stage.

Kerala will get AIIMS, but only after March 2026, says Centre

A.S. Jayanth
KOZHIKODE

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has clarified that Kerala will get an All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) only after March 2026.

This was revealed in a query filed under the Right to Information (RTI) Act by Kannur-based ophthalmologist K.V. Babu. The RTI reply says the Centre is planning to set up AIIMS in each State under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) in phases. The Health Ministry has requested the Ministry of Finance to grant in-principle approval to set up an AIIMS in Kerala.

The Finance Ministry, in turn, has advised the Health Ministry to include it in the next phase of the PMSSY. The current phase of the scheme ends in March 2026.

RTI reply indicates that a decision on AIIMS is unlikely during the tenure of the current LDF govt.

This means that the declaration related to AIIMS is unlikely during the tenure of the current Left Democratic Front (LDF) government, as the Assembly election is expected to be held by April-May 2026.

100 acres set aside

The disclosure comes against the backdrop of the State government's ongoing efforts to bring the premier institute to Kinalur in Kozhikode district. Nearly aside 150 acres has been set aside for the purpose there, and the acquisition process for another 100 acres is in progress.

Meanwhile, Union Minister of State for Tourism, Petroleum and Natural Gas Suresh Gopi has been demanding that the AIIMS be set up in Alappuzha. A section of BJP leaders has started another campaign to have it in Palakkad. A petition filed by a collective from Kasaragod seeking AIIMS for the district is pending in the Kerala High Court as well.

Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Prataprao Jadhav said in Parliament recently that none of the four sites proposed by the State has been approved.

Five UDF workers held for hurling explosives during Perambra clash

The Hindu Bureau
KOZHIKODE

The police on Wednesday arrested five United Democratic Front (UDF) workers who were allegedly involved in hurling crude explosives during a clash between protesters and law enforcement personnel at Perambra in Kozhikode, Kerala on October 10.

A street scuffle that followed the incident had resulted in injuries to Vadakara MP Shafi Parambil.

According to the police, the arrests followed early morning raids at the houses of several Congress workers suspected to be present at the spot during the clash. The arrest of five workers was recorded as part of the ongoing probe, a senior police officer said, adding that two more activists were taken into the custody.

The Perambra police registered a case on Monday against unidentified people after reviewing a few video clips from the October 10 protest, which was part of a larger agitation led by the UDF with the support of Youth Congress workers.

According to the FIR, individuals from the protesting group, who were part of an unlawful assembly, threw an explosive device aimed at obstructing the police in the discharge of their duty. The crude substance exploded near the officers, the FIR said.

Three weak cubs shifted from tiger reserve to rescue centre

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Three tiger cubs, found in an emaciated condition at the Biligiri Ranganathaswamy Temple (BRT) Tiger Reserve in Chamarajanagar district, have been rescued by the Forest Department, and will be shifted to a wild animals' rescue centre in Mysuru, Karnataka as their mother has not been found in the vicnity.

On October 13, forest guards sighted two cubs near the Punjanur-Beduguli road during regular patrolling. Surmising that the cubs were awaiting their mother, the guards continued their patrolling and returned to the same spot after some time.

The cubs were still moving around and seemed to be disoriented.

One of the three cubs rescued from the BRT Tiger Reserve by the Forest Department.

The guards combed the area looking for signs of the mother in the vicinity, but did not find any.

Based on the directives of higher officials, camera traps were installed at the area for surveillance and monitoring.

Despite the efforts, the mother could not be traced.

Later, a third cub emerged from the thickets during the combing operation.

B.S. Sripathi, Deputy Conservator of Forest and Director, BRT Tiger Reserve, said the cubs were about a month old and that there was no possibility of their survival in the absence of their mother.

A Standard Technical Guidance and Monitoring Committee was constituted as per the norms and the three cubs are being monitored by veterinarians.

Officials said that the cubs will be shifted to the Chamundi Wild Animals Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre at Koorgalli on the outskirts of Mysuru.

Refugees, infiltrators

India needs a refugee policy document that is non-discriminatory

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has rightly stressed the need to make a distinction between refugees and infiltrators. Though valid, the problem lies in the application of objective parameters by those in power to make a distinction. Even where proper policy and a legal framework exist, issues may arise. Also at play is the level of official understanding. In India, which is not a signatory to the 1951 UN Convention on the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol, there is no comprehensive single law defining who a refugee is, leaving scope for arbitrary action. Till the end of March 2025, apart from the Citizenship Act 1955 and the Passports Act 1967, three laws (the Foreigners Act, 1946, the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 and the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920) were applied to deal with foreign nationals, including refuge seekers. From April, the Immigration and Foreigners Act replaced the three pre-Independence laws and subsumed the Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Act, 2000. While this streamlined the legal framework, the absence of a refugee policy document has also led to different yardsticks for the refugee community in India. While there was a rehabilitation policy in 2014 for about 63,000 Tibetan refugees, there is no such document for the nearly 90,000 Sri Lankan Tamils. At the end of June 2023, the population of refugees or persons of concern in India was over 2.11 lakh (also counting those from Myanmar, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Africa and West Asia). Any undocumented or overstaying refugee is regarded as an illegal migrant (Citizenship Act). He can also be called an infiltrator. Thus, genuine and harmless refugees risk facing harassment.

Even though the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 was aimed at providing citizenship to six religious minorities belonging to Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan, it drew sharp criticism as it discriminated on the lines of religion and left out sections of Muslims, and also Sri Lankan Tamils and the Rohingya, both minorities in their countries. But in a notification last month, undocumented or overstaying Tamil refugees, who have registered themselves with the authorities, were granted exemption from penal provisions of the Immigration and Foreigners Act, provided they took shelter in India on or before January 9, 2015. Other groups too have been covered. Still, there is no change when it comes to the recent trend of religion-based exclusions. There is nothing fundamentally wrong with the approach of discreet humanitarian relief to refugees in general but this has to be backed by consistent, rational and fair treatment for all.

Evolution, revolution

The economics Nobel is a nod to freedom and innovation

This year's Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences has been awarded to Philippe Aghion, Peter Howitt and Joel Mokyr, who have, over decades, attempted to explain humanity's unprecedented progress over the past two centuries. While Mokyr has provided the long historical and cultural context, Aghion and Howitt have given it a formal mathematical frame or the "creative destruction" model. The idea itself is older. It originates with economist Joseph Schumpeter, who described capitalism as an evolutionary system in which innovation continuously displaces old technologies, firms and industries – a process both creative and destructive. But Schumpeter's framework rested on certain assumptions: that markets are free, competition is open, and the state acts only as an enabler of private enterprise, not as a driver of innovation. This assumption sits uneasily with the historical record. The long vision of the erstwhile Soviet state, and now the Chinese model of developmental capitalism, reveal how the state itself can shape and direct innovation. The creative destruction model, refined by Aghion and Howitt in the early 1990s, emerged during the twilight years of the Cold War, just as the Washington Consensus and neoliberalism became the dominant global economic paradigm. These models reinterpreted Schumpeter's idea in mathematical form through the endogenous growth theory – the notion that long-term growth is generated not by external forces but by innovation, education, and research arising within the economy. Crucially, it assumed that competition and private incentives – not central planning – are the engines of technological progress.

But the Nobel recognition comes at a time when the very conditions for this model to succeed have been upended by U.S. President Donald Trump. His administration has weaponised global trade, politicised science and technology, and turned markedly protectionist, departing from the open, rent-seeking capitalism of the post-war American economic order. While the creative destruction and endogenous growth models remain powerful tools to understand progress within a specific system – that of neoliberal capitalism – they fail to explain the exponential technological advances of state-led economies such as China. These models also overlook how geopolitics, institutional fragility and widening inequalities can reshape the very structure of innovation. It is thus telling that the Nobel Committee has chosen to honour a framework whose ideal conditions – liberal markets, global openness, and scientific freedom – are under strain. This perhaps must be viewed as a warning that for liberal democracies to thrive, they must not renege on the ideals of institutional freedoms within state-enabled capitalist societies.

Navigating the global economic transformation

Salman Khurshid

is India's former External Affairs Minister

Pushparaj Deshpande

is Samruddha Bharat Foundation's Director

The normative economic consensus underpinning the world order is undergoing a seismic shift, with the United States and China locked into a great-power conflict, and carving out new geo-economic ecosystems that maximise their self-interest. This great global transformation is reshaping global trade flows, financial/currency markets and strategic calculations. It also opens a rare window to forge a more equitable world-order.

Analysing new economic paradigms

First, populist-autocrats are enabling an unprecedented state-capital Gordian knot, which has had major socio-political implications. Unlike laissez-faire capitalism (where the state minimally intervenes in markets, companies negotiate with governments, and respond to market-competitiveness incentives), governments led by populist-autocrats primarily service large oligopolies and crony-capitalists who offer support for political centralisation in lieu of various concessions/commissions. Circumscribing the national interest, these plutocracies prioritise the well-being of corporations over citizens, by mortgaging national public assets and contorting policies. This has profound consequences for the social contract underpinning nations.

Second, and partly because crony-capitalists disproportionately influence populist-autocrats, primordial rules of statecraft are resurgent. Consequently, America is recalibrating a century of historical, strategic and economic convergence – to purportedly Make America Great Again. It is no coincidence that America is exerting pressure on Taiwan to shift chip manufacturing to the U.S., securing its trade routes (Panama), fortifying supply lines for rare earths as China weaponises them (Central Asia and Africa), fusing digital-currency ecosystems with foreign policy (Pakistan), and exerting pressure on Arctic-rim nations (Greenland and Canada), possibly anticipating an imminent bout of ecological imperialism. This limitedly explains why America is pushing Europe to 'manage' Russia and Israel to 'manage' West Asia. The myopic notion that nations can have spheres of control has ignited mushrooming conflicts and genocides.

Third, Big Tech and cloud capitalists have overwhelmingly altered the global economy by siphoning out rents from the value chain, reshaping mass consciousness and political outcomes (inevitably rewarding populist-autocrats undermining digital rights). This is being compounded by digital colonialism, exemplified by the AI Action Plan, the Cloud Act, the SWIFT payment system's weaponisation and the introduction of state-backed digital currencies and ecosystems (which 100 central banks are piloting). While such systems could streamline cross-border financial transactions (and might reportedly be used to restructure national debt), they will undermine economic sovereignties of nation-states and dilute the Financial Action Task Force framework and anti-money laundering norms. They will also create complexities in political funding, which populist-autocrats would be optimally positioned to exploit.

> India and the Global South can collaborate and construct a new economic deal that works for all nations

Fourth, by withdrawing developmental aid, populist-autocrats have abandoned vulnerable populations and created expansionist opportunities for undemocratic forces. For example, the $44 billion funding cuts by G-7 nations may push 5.7 million more Africans into poverty by 2026. Similarly, the decline in international grants for small enterprises in Nepal sparked an exodus of eight lakh immigrants, exacerbating dissatisfaction with the government. Likewise, funding cuts for the World Food Programme impacted 16.7 million people in 2023, leading to distress migration, an uptick in recruitment by armed militias (in Sahel region) and socio-political tensions.

Finally, it is widely recognised that America's tariffs (on 70-plus nations) and sanctions (on 30-plus nations) have impacted the free flow of trade, capital, people and ideas. Clearly, America is unwilling to absorb goods from surplus-producing economies such as Japan, Europe and China, and penalising their dependencies.

Faced with uncertainty, the Global South is rapidly seeking alternatives (by exploring bilateral treaties, localising production, securitising supply chains and strategic sectors, ramping up gold reserves, cautiously de-dollarising oil trades, and tentatively exploring currency alternatives). These experiments could kickstart a domino effect, compelling the West to also chart an independent economic path.

Opportunity in crisis

These economic disruptions concomitantly pose opportunities, especially for China and India (which collectively dominated the world economy for 1,800 of the last 2,000 years). It is a fact that neoliberal globalisation was premised on capital accumulation, cheap labour, environmental colonisation and trickle-down economics.

These led to untenable sovereign debt, reduced fiscal space for developmental and welfare goals, and the relinquishing of national resources and assets to crony-capitalists. These triggered extreme concentrations of power and wealth in the hands of a few in the Global North, and glaring socio-economic inequalities.

Consequently, the 2022 "Poverty and Shared Prosperity" report asserts that 47% of the world's population lives below the $6.85 poverty line, while 735 million face crippling hunger. This invariably creates toxic conditions that propel societies towards traditional social-cohesion norms, which populist-autocrats have cynically exploited to unleash undemocratic upsurges against democracies.

Given this, India and the Global South can either accede to an unjust global (dis)order, or collaboratively and creatively construct a New Economic Deal that works for all nations. For example, while pressing for an overhaul of international financial institutions to secure fairer representation to Global South economies, India must push for a new debt-relief framework to free nations from structural adjustments that inevitably spark democratic regressions.

Similarly, in the pursuit of a fair and stable rules-based global economic system, India should also fashion new economic alliances (either through BRICS or South-South partnerships) while championing fair trade policies that protect domestic industries and sectors. Most importantly, to fire-proof our relationships from changes-in-guard (something the incumbent government failed to do, causing strains with the U.S., Bangladesh and Nepal), we must build bipartisan relationships with key stakeholders in partner-nations.

Need for a recalibration

But realising our manifest destiny means effecting a domestic recalibration, necessitating a hard course correction from the Bharatiya Janata Party government. As a growth driver and potential investor in public infrastructure and services, the private sector is undoubtedly a partner in national development. But because companies cannot redress structural problems and are primarily profit-oriented, the state must adopt a commanding role (as in many East Asian economies) over critical sectors such as energy, infrastructure, data/digital finance, defence, space, water, education, health care and agriculture. These are essential for national security and to provision for all Indians.

Similarly, instituting strong anti-monopoly norms and sovereign wealth-funds (as in Norway) can prevent oligopolistic control, and channelise national resources for national goals. Likewise, heavy investments in scientific research, education and pedagogic autonomies will make India globally competitive. Furthermore, strategically redeploying India's public sector units like China's state-owned-enterprises (instead of privatising them) and like international-aid agencies would maximise revenues and geopolitical objectives.

Finally, the emerging digital-financial paradigm must be aligned to constitutional and national goals.

Actualising this means prioritising substantive (not performative) foreign policy. It means the "India way" must be non-alignment (notwithstanding its rechristening as multi-alignment for political expediency). It means shedding partisanship and forging consensus on where India should be heading as a nation, and how it gets there. India must harness this golden opportunity to realise its rightful place in the emerging world order.

The 'critical factor' in India's clean energy ambitions

Alkesh Kumar Sharma

is Member, Public Enterprises Selection Board, and a former Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and IT

India's ambition to be a global leader in clean energy and sustainable growth depends on securing critical minerals such as lithium, cobalt and Rare Earth Elements (REEs). These minerals drive key technologies – electric vehicles (EV), solar panels, wind turbines and energy storage – making them vital to India's green transition and long-term energy goals. As the country aims to achieve 500 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2070, ensuring the supply of critical minerals and rare earths becomes important. India's reliance on imported critical minerals amid global competition demands stronger domestic mining, better infrastructure and global partnerships.

Investing in mines and modern recycling technologies will build resilient supply chains and advance the Atmanirbhar Bharat vision in the clean energy race.

Critical minerals in India's green transition

Critical minerals are indispensable to India's clean energy goals. Lithium and cobalt are essential for EV batteries, with India's EV market projected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 49% from 2023 to 2030. This will be driven by government initiatives such as the Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme (EMPS) 2024. In 2023, India's battery storage market was valued at $2.8 billion, with demand expected to surge as renewable energy adoption accelerates.

However, India's reliance on imports for these minerals – nearly 100% for lithium, cobalt, nickel and over 90% for REEs – exposes it to supply chain vulnerabilities. Geopolitical tensions, trade restrictions and global competition, particularly from countries such as China (which controls 60% of global REE production and 85% of processing capacity), underscore the urgency of building a self-reliant supply chain to achieve its clean energy ambitions, industrial growth and national security.

India has vast untapped mineral potential, with lithium in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and Rajasthan, and REEs in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. The National Mineral Exploration Policy (NMEP), launched in 2016 and subsequent developments through the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act in 2021 has accelerated exploration by encouraging private participation and using advanced geophysical surveys. In 2023, the Geological Survey of India identified 5.9 million tonnes of inferred lithium resources in J&K, a promising step toward domestic production. Last year alone, auctions of 20 critical mineral blocks covering lithium, graphite and REEs attracted bids from both Indian and multinational companies, signalling growing investor interest.

> Geopolitical tensions, trade restrictions and global competition highlight the urgency of building a self-reliant supply chain for critical minerals

Exploration is just the first step. With India contributing less than 1% of the global REE production, it must rapidly build processing and refining capacity through public-private partnerships. Private partners can bring advanced processing technologies and support recycling infrastructure, while domestic lithium and cobalt pilots need greater government backing through subsidies, tax breaks and research grants to scale effectively.

Investment in mines

Investment in domestic mining is central to India's critical mineral strategy. The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2023 opened up private exploration, but the sector still faces high costs, regulatory hurdles and environmental concerns. In 2022, mining contributed just 2.5% to India's GDP, compared to 13.6% in Australia. To bridge this gap, the government must streamline licensing processes and offer financial incentives such as production-linked subsidies to attract private capital. The Government of India has launched the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) with a ₹34,300 crore plan to strengthen value chains across exploration, mining, processing and recovery from end-of-life products.

State-backed companies such as the NMDC have diversified through their Australian arm, and outlined plans to enter the critical minerals sector. IREL (India) Limited (formerly Indian Rare Earths Ltd) is preparing to extract neodymium, praseodymium, and dysprosium, but both need stronger private partnerships for greenfield projects. KABIL (Khanij Bidesh India Ltd.), formed in 2019 to secure overseas mineral assets, must expedite acquisitions. Meanwhile, the government has bolstered domestic supply security through the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022, to enhance critical mineral recovery and recycling.

Moving towards a circular economy

Upgrading India's mining and processing infrastructure is equally critical. Modernising infrastructure requires significant investment in mechanised mining equipment, automated processing plants and waste management systems. Infrastructure upgrades also extend to recycling. India generates close to four million metric tonnes of e-waste annually, yet only 10% is formally recycled. Advanced recycling facilities could recover critical minerals, strengthening the circular economy. The Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022 set recycling targets, but weak implementation and limited infrastructure pose challenges. Public-private hubs could boost recycling technologies, cut costs and reduce environmental impact.

India's clean energy transition and industrial growth depend on securing critical minerals through mine development and a circular economy. Priority should be given to operationalising mining leases, investing in mines, upgrading recycling, fast-tracking exploration in Chhattisgarh, promoting urban mining, and boosting research and development to cut import dependence, create jobs and drive innovation.

The National Critical Mineral Mission and recent auctions are positive steps, but their success requires strong state support, clear policies and public-private collaboration. A robust mineral ecosystem will drive India's EV, solar and storage goals while positioning it as a green economy leader.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Jaisalmer bus fire

The incident in Rajasthan, where 20 lives were lost in a bus fire, is not only heartbreaking but also indicative of severe lapses in transport safety regulations and enforcement. There is an urgent need to reassess the safety protocols for public transportation. That so many passengers could not escape raises critical questions about the presence and accessibility of emergency exits, fire extinguishers, and driver training in an emergency.

Nagarajamani M.V.,
Hyderabad

Scroll and send

When I began to use WhatsApp, I was ignorant about many of the symbols. It was only when others began to reply to my messages, but using symbols/emoticons, that I began to understand what they meant ('Open Page' – "Returning to sign language", October 12). My nephew recently sent me a message to say that he had passed an examination with top marks. I immediately sent him a reply but as an emoticon. He called me in a few seconds asking me why I had sent a symbol of a worried face with tears!

D. Sethuraman,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

The road to gender equity in courts

Archana Ramasundaram

is a retired DGP and has also served as a Member, Lokpal

Women's under-representation, particularly in India's higher judiciary, continues to be a sad reality. As highlighted by the India Justice Report 2025, women constitute only 14% of judges in the High Courts and a mere 3.1% in the Supreme Court. Among the 34 judges of the Supreme Court, there is only one woman. The silver lining is her expected elevation as the first woman Chief Justice of India. If no woman is inducted before she completes her tenure, the highest court of the country may have the unenviable distinction of not having even a token representation of women. Out of 25 High Courts, only one is headed by a woman Chief Justice.

This stark deficiency has been flagged in the past, and several judges have also voiced their concern. However, no serious effort seems to have been made to correct this imbalance, and the situation remains dismal in this hollowed domain.

The main reason for this gender disparity is the current Collegium system of induction of judges in the High Courts and the Supreme Court. The Collegium consists of the Chief Justice and a few other judges. In such a highly networked 'elitist club', women and other underprivileged sections of society are at a great disadvantage.

Need for reform

The lower courts fare much better on this front, since judges at this level are selected through competitive examinations that open the doors equally to women and men. As a result, women account for nearly 38% of the overall strength of the lower judiciary.

The numbers could rise further with better promotional opportunities and a gender-friendly infrastructure. Nearly 20% of the district court complexes in 2023 lacked separate toilets for women, according to a report published by the Centre for Research and Planning of the Supreme Court.

This gender imbalance in the higher judiciary can be corrected if there is an open, national-level competition for judicial appointments, similar to those for the IAS, IFS, and IPS. This suggestion is not new.

In recent years, this idea has gained traction and found support from President Droupadi Murmu. In her address at the Constitution Day function organised by the Supreme Court in November 2023, she suggested the creation of an All-India Judicial Service. This, she said, would be a system "in which judges can be recruited through a process which is merit-based, competitive and transparent. Such a system can offer opportunities to the less-represented social groups also."

Unfortunately, this suggestion has faced stiff resistance from both the judiciary and the Bar; in their view, this may result in executive interference and dilute the judicial autonomy. However, this argument is not convincing. If there is no evidence of any executive interference in the selection of the lower judiciary through competitive exams, how would a similar system affect the independence of the higher judiciary? On the contrary, an open competitive examination would ensure a uniform merit-based selection process and bring the much-needed transparency, while reducing the influence of biases and patronage, and creating a more inclusive judiciary.

UPSC as a model

To counter such concerns, a special mention needs to be made of the crucial role played by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) in holding a pan-India competitive examination annually for recruitment to the Civil Services.

Over the decades, the profiles of successful candidates in the UPSC Civil Services examination have witnessed a remarkable diversity in their social and economic backgrounds. Out of the 1,009 candidates selected in the year 2024, there are 318 from the OBC, 160 from SC, 87 from ST, and 109 from EWS. Women have scripted a new history; the top 25 successful candidates include 11 women. In fact, both first and second ranks were secured by women.

The scenario in the IPS is even more heartening. In 2024, 54 women joined the IPS, comprising 28% of the total strength.

Way forward

Article 312 of the Constitution empowers Parliament to create new All-India Services, including an All-India Judicial Service, to ensure uniform recruitment, training, and service standards. One hopes that such a service comes into existence soon. Once constituted, the control over the Indian Judicial Service should vest with the Supreme Court.

However, the examination should be open to all Indians and conducted by the UPSC, based on the eligibility standards and other criteria prescribed by the Supreme Court in consultation with the High Courts. This would inject the much-needed impartiality, transparency, and diversity in the selection process of the higher judiciary.

Those selected should work under the control of the Supreme Court or the High Court concerned, as the case may be. The modalities, of course, are to be decided by these courts, including those relating to a comprehensive basic training programme after their selection.

To recall the famous words of a former Prime Minister of France, Georges Clemenceau, "War is too important a matter to be left to generals".

Similarly, justice is also too serious a matter to be left entirely to the judiciary.

The citizens of this country also have a stake in this matter and need to be given access to the selection process to ensure an inclusive judiciary.

The gender imbalance in the higher judiciary can be corrected if there is a national-level competition for judicial appointments

Balancing lives and conservation

Kerala amends wildlife laws to tackle conflicts while raising some concerns

STATE OF PLAY

Mohan Chandra Pargaien

One of India's most literate States, Kerala is known for its strong grassroots institutions and rich biodiversity. With globally significant ecological hotspots such as the Western Ghats and Silent Valley, over 64.26% of its land is under Forest & Trees cover. The rise in tiger numbers and the improving elephant population further reflect its conservation saga.

In recent years, Kerala has faced a sharp rise in human-wildlife conflicts – declared a disaster – resulting in significant loss of life, crop damage, and widespread fear. In the last decade, these conflicts injured nearly 9,000 people and caused over 900 deaths. A Forest Department study identified 273 local bodies as critical conflict zones, including 30 major hotspots, nine of which are highly critical due to frequent incidents.

Recently, the Kerala Cabinet approved amendments to the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, with provisions empowering the Chief Wildlife Warden to order the immediate killing of wild animals attacking humans in residential areas, bypassing central approvals for faster redressal. These also allow the State to declare species such as wild boars as vermin, permitting controlled culling to protect crops and livelihoods, and downgrading the bonnet macaque from Schedule I to Schedule II for easier population management. Further, the State can authorise relocation and birth control measures for certain species without prior central approval. These are aimed at balancing conservation and safety.

The Act bans hunting and sets protected areas. Being on the Concurrent List, both the State and Union governments can legislate on it, with central law prevailing to ensure a unified national policy in case of dissent. Despite successful conservation initiatives, wildlife in India continues to face challenges such as habitat fragmentation and human-wildlife conflicts. Kerala's current situation is a clear testimony to these challenges, prompting the State to propose amendments as a potential solution.

Ecological impact

Regardless of intent, these amendments may create legal conflicts with the central Act, bypass key protocols, and threaten the consistent national protection framework. They could face judicial review for contradicting the central objectives, raising concerns over India's unified conservation regime.

Whether it is a mass culling of wild boar or reducing protection for the bonnet macaque, these measures endanger biodiversity and predator-prey balance by disrupting local ecology. This concern is heightened given Kerala's progress in conserving key species.

Decentralised authority also raises concerns of misuse or unscientific application, leading to inconsistent wildlife management that may cause more ecological harm. Environmentalists warn that these acts are unscientific, legally questionable, and contrary to both public interest and constitutional principles.

Cooperation with dialogue

The proposed amendments reflect a commitment to quick, local solutions, while the Centre emphasises unified, science-based conservation to avoid fragmentation and legal confusion. The conflicting views on this matter demand a collaborative solution that balances human safety along with ecological considerations under a national conservation strategy.

Cooperation allowing State-specific flexibility within central laws via faster approvals or science-backed exceptions could be one solution, with measures such as joint task forces for implementing lasting, non-lethal measures, including habitat restoration, early warning systems, and conflict management. Empowering communities, transparent monitoring, and clear legal protocols – backed by streamlined processes and central funding – would help manage conflicts without breaking national policy.

God's own country, echoing with tiger roars and elephant trumpets, symbolises ecological pride and heritage. Its future depends on how well Kerala and the nation balance conservation with conflict. Whether vibrant or diminished, this legacy depends on collaborative, science-based solutions balancing human and wildlife needs. Kerala's decision today will shape and guide India's conservation legacy for the future.

Mohan Chandra Pargaien is former Chief Wild Life Warden & Advisor, SCCL, Telangana
Views are personal

Bengal second-lowest in convictions for crimes against women

Between 2017 and 2023, only around one in five cases of crimes against women ended in convictions in West Bengal

DATA POINT

Sambavi Parthasarathy

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's recent remarks amid public outrage over an alleged gang rape in Durgapur have drawn sharp criticism from the Opposition and citizens alike. The incident has once again reignited concerns over women's safety and the lack of accountability in the State.

The recent crime, in which the victim is a medical student from Odisha, has occurred barely a year after protests erupted over the rape and murder of a doctor at Kolkata's R.G. Kar Medical College. Last year, the State government issued a set of guidelines that included a proposal to minimise night duty for women doctors. It was later withdrawn after being flagged before the Supreme Court.

This time, speaking to the media, Ms. Banerjee, after expressing shock over the alleged gang rape, said that private medical colleges must take greater responsibility for their students and that students, particularly girls, should not be allowed to go out at night. She added, "In Bengal, we have zero tolerance for such crimes, and I appeal to the boys and girls who come to study here not to venture out at night." Later, she claimed that her comments had been "deliberately distorted."

Despite Ms. Banerjee's stated commitment to not tolerating such crimes, data show limited progress on that front. Data show consistently low conviction rates and high pendency of cases of crimes against women in the State.

West Bengal has reported more than 30,000 cases of crimes against women every year since 2018, consistently ranking among the top four States with the highest number of such cases **(Chart 1)**. Between 2021 and 2023, the State recorded the highest number of cases in the country under the categories of "acid attack" and "attempt to acid attack" on women. The State also ranked second in incidents reported under "attempt to rape," a trend that has remained consistent since 2019. Between 2018 and 2023, West Bengal recorded the third-highest number of cases under "cruelty by husband or his relatives," following Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

Put together, it is one of the top five States that have recorded the highest number of cases under multiple crime categories related to offences against women between 2018 and 2023, as shown in **Chart 1**. In parallel with such a high caseload, data also show that West Bengal's conviction rate for crimes against women is among the lowest in the country.

Between 2017 and 2023, West Bengal's conviction rate for crimes against women has remained abysmally low, averaging around 5% **(Chart 2)**. Only in 2022 did it climb to 8.9%, indicating that convictions occur in just a fraction of the cases that reach court. A State-wise analysis of conviction rates in this category shows that West Bengal is among the poorest performers. The State ranked 35th out of 36 in conviction rates for cases of crimes against women in 2023.

Consequently, the number of cases of crimes against women that ended in acquittals rose sharply from fewer than 8,000 in previous years to over 19,000 in 2023, the highest among all States that year **(Chart 3)**. Moreover, around 3.7 lakh cases of crimes against women were pending trial in West Bengal at the end of 2023, the highest among all States. The number of pending cases has risen by 56% between 2017 and 2023 **(Chart 4)**.

Data clearly show that when it comes to crimes against women, West Bengal recorded the lowest conviction rate in the country, the highest number of acquittals, and the largest backlog of pending cases, collectively reflecting weak action against such crimes.

Reality check

The data for the charts were sourced from the National Crime Records Bureau (2017-2023)

Chart 1: West Bengal's ranking among all States under multiple crime categories related to crimes against women (2018-2023)

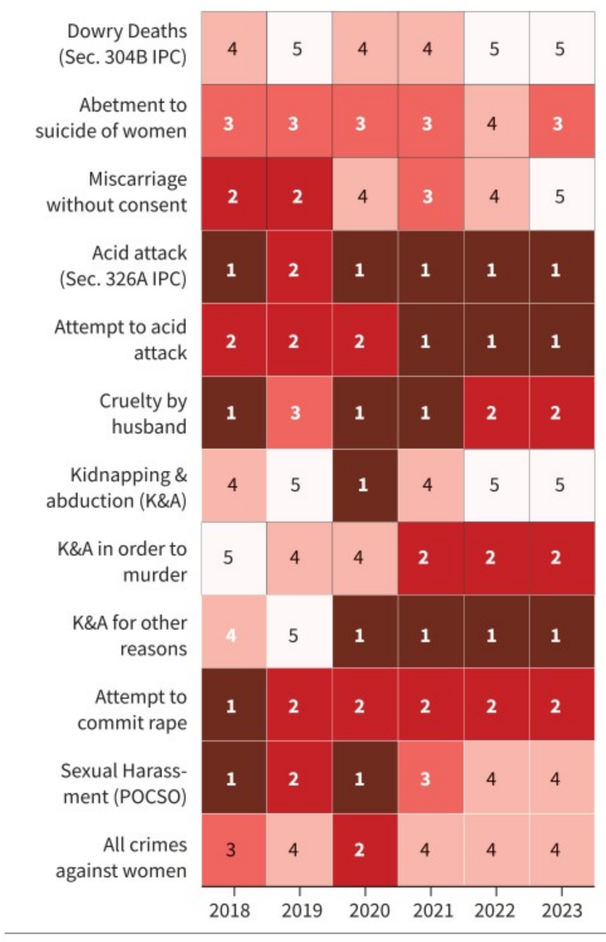
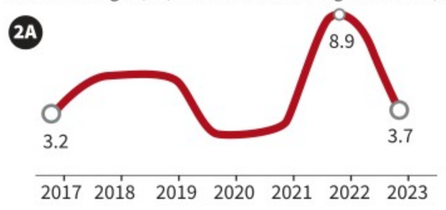


Chart 2: The conviction rate for crimes against women in West Bengal (2A) and its rank among all States (2B)



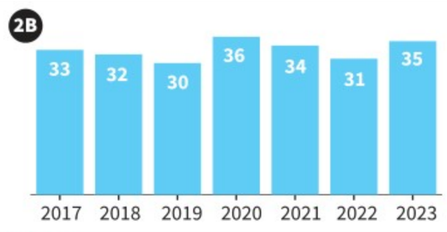


Chart 3: Number of cases of crimes against women in West Bengal that ended in acquittal

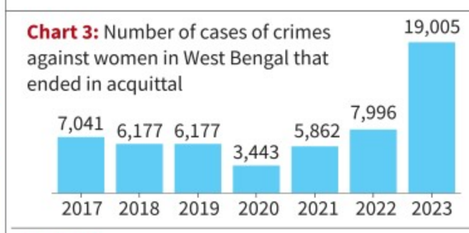
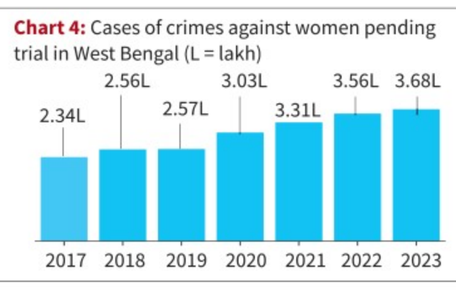


Chart 4: Cases of crimes against women pending trial in West Bengal (L = lakh)



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 16, 1975

Sri Lanka nationalises plantations

Colombo, October 15: The Bill to nationalise all tea, rubber and coconut plantations owned by foreign and local companies was last night unanimously adopted by the Sri Lanka National State Assembly.

The Bill which will become law with the Speaker of the Assembly certifying it will affect 396 estates owned by 232 public companies and involves 415,600 acres of plantations.

Eighty-seven of these companies are sterling companies registered in the United Kingdom and own about 190 estates. The rest are rupee ones.

Public companies both local and foreign have 292,000 acres under tea, 110,000 acres under rubber and the rest under coconut.

The sterling companies have one-fourth of the total tea acreage of the island and produce one-third of the island's total tea – the primary export product of the country.

The Bill which was debated for over 16 hours on Friday last was welcomed by all sections of the House and hailed as a measure which would end nearly two centuries of British exploitation of the island's economy. Mr. Hector Kobbekaduwa, Minister of Lands and Agriculture, winding up the debate, made it clear that compensation would be paid in Sri Lanka rupee and not in foreign currency.

He also assured the House that the Government would treat workers of Indian origin who are mostly employed in these estates on the same footing as Sri Lanka labour and would not in any way discriminate against the former.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO OCTOBER 15, 1925

Special Cable

London, October 15: *The Daily Telegraph*'s Diplomatic Correspondent is responsible for a remarkable story of a secret meeting at Geneva at the height of Mosul Conference between the unofficial observers of certain Eastern Power, including Turkish, Chinese and Russian, at which the Eastern Powers professed affection for the Soviet's expressed readiness to facilitate the task of Communist propagandists while simultaneously denouncing the British Empire.

The correspondent adds that if a list of the participants were published a sensation would be created in the diplomatic circles.

From Page One

SC eases ban in Delhi, clears green fireworks

It also took note of submissions by advocate Uttara Babbar that there was no "substantial difference" in AQI levels between 2018, when green fireworks were introduced, and 2024, when the blanket ban was imposed.

"It has been fairly stated that there is not much difference, except during the COVID period when the AQI had drastically come down," the court said.

The court noted that Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre and NCR States, had made a "fervent plea" to lift the ban during Deepavali and other major festivals, including Christmas and New Year's Eve.

It also took note of the Haryana government's concern that 14 of its 22 districts fall within the NCR, effectively bringing "almost 70 per cent of the State" under the ban. Similar pleas were also made on behalf of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Acknowledging the "deleterious effect" of granting the fireworks industry a free hand, the Bench laid down a detailed regulatory framework to ensure that the relaxation did not compromise environmental safety.

"Firecrackers shall be sold only through licensed traders and must be manufactured by entities registered with NEERI and holding a valid licence from PESO," the court directed.

The Bench also barred the manufacture and sale of *laris* (series fireworks) and imposed a complete ban on the sale of fireworks through e-commerce websites. It directed that all sales be confined to designated spots in Delhi-NCR.

To ensure compliance, the court mandated that police authorities, in coordination with the district administration, constitute joint patrolling teams including officers from the State Pollution Control Boards. The patrol teams, it said, will "conduct regular reconnaissance to ensure that only the permitted products shall be sold and that too having the QR codes issued".

Trade deficit widens in Sept. as services slump

"It is heartening to know that in this turbulence, our merchandise exports have kept up," Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said in a press briefing. "That means our industry has been resilient and they have been able to withstand the turbulence by retaining their supply chains and business. They might be taking on some of the costs on themselves," Mr. Agrawal added.

He also sought to downplay the increase in the trade deficit in September, saying that international trade does not always follow the same pattern from year to year.

"On a cumulative basis, we are still doing better than last year," Mr. Agrawal said. "That means the part of the exports that are not facing tariffs are growing well, but also the part of the exports that do face the tariffs are also growing. The exports have not come down."

Looking at the first half of the financial year, the data shows that total exports grew 4.45% in the April-September 2025 period to $413.3 billion. Total imports grew at a relatively slower 3.55% to $472.8 billion over the same period. As a result, the trade deficit during the first half of the financial year shrank by 2.3%.

78 Maoists surrender in Chhattisgarh, say police

A woman cadre, carrying a bounty of ₹5 lakh, surrendered in Kondagaon district, said a police officer. The surrendered Maoists in these three districts also deposited more than three dozen weapons, including seven AK-47 rifles, the police said.

Sukma Superintendent of Police Kiran Chavan said that one of Maoists, 53-year-old Oyam Lakhmu, carried a reward of ₹10 lakh on his head. Three other cadres carried a reward of ₹8 lakh each, while one carried a reward of ₹3 lakh.

"Besides this, ₹2 lakh each was announced for two Maoists and ₹1 lakh each for nine Maoists, totalling ₹50 lakh," he said.

He said these Maoists were influenced by the State government's Chhattisgarh Naxalite Surrender Rehabilitation Policy and the *Niyad Nella Nar* scheme.

In Gadchiroli, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said that Bhupati's surrender marked the beginning of the end of the Maoist movement.

"The backbone of Maoism has broken now. The battle against Maoism is in its last stage. We are hopeful that other cadres will also surrender in the coming days. The next challenge is that of urban Naxalism," Mr. Fadnavis said. He declared an award of ₹1 crore for the Gadchiroli police after appreciating the efforts of the C-60 commandos.

He said that the entire region, earlier known as the Red Corridor, would soon be free of Maoism, but also asked the administration to be more vigilant for the coming two years.

Bhupati, 70, who carried a bounty of six crore, and other senior leaders and cadres from Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh handed over 54 weapons, including seven AK47s, six SLRs and six INSAS rifles.

Bhupati's surrender comes months after his wife Tarakka, alias Vimala Sidam, also a Maoist leader, turned herself in. His sister-in-law had surrendered in front of the Telangana Police.

Maoist violence restricted to 11 districts, says government

Only three districts — Bijapur, Sukma, and Narayanpur districts of Chhattisgarh — marked as most affected, says Home Ministry; in 2013, there were 126 districts affected by left-wing extremism

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

On a day when senior CPI (Maoist) leader Mallojula Venugopal Rao, alias Bhupati, and 60 other cadres surrendered in Maharashtra, the Union Home Ministry on Wednesday said the number of districts affected by left-wing extremism had come down to 11 from 18 earlier this year.

The number of "most-affected" districts has reduced from six to three, with Bijapur, Sukma, and Narayanpur districts of Chhattisgarh now falling in the category, the Ministry said on Wednesday.

In 2013, there were 126 affected districts and following continuous operations, the number was restricted to 18 in April 2025.

Since 2021, more than 100 forward-operating bases or camps of security forces have been established in affected areas, a majority of them in Chhattisgarh, said a senior government official.

Besides Bijapur, Sukma, and Narayanpur, the other affected districts are Dantewada, Gariaband, Kanker, and Mohla-Manpur-Ambagarh Chowki in Chhattisgarh, West Singhbhum in Jharkhand, Balaghat in Madhya Pradesh, Gadchiroli in Maharashtra, and Kandhamal in Odisha.

Beginning of the end: Naxal leader Bhupati surrendering before Maharashtra Chief Minister in Gadchiroli on Wednesday. PTI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has announced that Maoism will be completely eradicated from the country by March 31, 2026.

The Ministry said that this year, 312 cadres had been killed, including a CPI (Maoist) general secretary and eight other Polit Bureau/Central Committee members; 836 cadres have been arrested, and 1,639 have surrendered and joined the mainstream. The surrendered cadres include one Polit Bureau member and a Central Committee member.

Sustained operations

The Ministry said that the National Action Plan and Policy, which envisages a multi-pronged approach, helped in eradicating the influence of left-wing extremism.

The policy includes precise intelligence-based and people-friendly counter operations. "These steps were accompanied by swift domination of areas with security vacuum, targeting of top leaders as well as overground workers, countering the ideology, rapid development of infrastructure and saturation of welfare schemes, choking of finances, enhanced coordination between states and centre governments and accelerated investigation and prosecution of Maoist related cases," the Ministry said.

Referring to former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's assessment of the Maoist insurgency, the Ministry said, "Once called India's biggest internal security challenge by the then Prime Minister in 2010, Naxalism is now visibly retreating. Naxals had planned a Red Corridor - stretching from Pashupati in Nepal to Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh. In 2013, 126 districts from different States reported Naxal-related violence; by March 2025, this tally had fallen to just 18, with only six classified as most-affected districts."

SC raps States for laxity in framing hospital norms

Top court summons senior health officials to chastise them for adopting a 'casual approach' to order

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday summoned the senior health officials of 28 States and Union Territories to chastise them for adopting a "casual approach" towards its order on uniform guidelines for patient management in hospital intensive and critical care units (ICUs and CCUs) by October 5.

Noting that several States had either failed to comply or submitted their reports well past the deadline, a Bench of Justices Ahsanuddin Amanullah and N. Kotiswar Singh expressed displeasure over the delay. "It is now time for this court to take serious cognisance of the casual approach displayed by the States," the Bench remarked.

Issuing notices to the Additional Chief Secretary or the senior-most Health official in each defaulting State and UT, the Bench directed them to appear personally before the court on November 20 with "personally affirmed show cause affidavits" explaining why action should not be taken against them for their laxity. "The officers who have been directed to appear shall not cite any excuse, including prior engagements or official commitments," it said.

The defaulters are: Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Chandigarh, Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

The order pertains to a 2015 petition on a medical negligence case instituted by Asit Baran Mondal seeking compensation for the death of his wife due to alleged medical negligence. Subsequently, the Supreme Court in 2016 recognised that there existed no guidelines for the treatment of patients in the ICU/CCU, nor proper care at the stage of operation or the post-operative stage.

Sonam Wangchuk can share notes on his detention with wife's lawyer, Centre tells SC

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Wednesday informed the Supreme Court that it had no objection to climate activist Sonam Wangchuk sharing handwritten notes on his detention with the lawyer of his wife, Gitanjali Angmo, who has moved the court challenging his preventive detention under the National Security Act (NSA), 1980.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, conveyed this to a Bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and N.V. Anjaria, which adjourned the hearing till October 29 to allow Ms. Angmo to make certain modifications to her *habeas corpus* plea.

A *habeas corpus* petition is a constitutional remedy that allows the court to order the release of a person alleged to be unlawfully detained.

Gitanjali J. Angmo has accused officials of running a 'systematic and false campaign' to malign Sonam Wangchuk's movement. PTI

Ms. Angmo approached the top court after Mr. Wangchuk's detention on September 26 following protests in Leh that turned violent two days earlier, leaving four dead and several others injured. She had sought directions for the authorities to produce her husband before the court, stating that neither the grounds of detention nor his health status had been communicated to the family.

During the hearing, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Ms. Angmo, told the Bench that Mr. Wangchuk, who is presently lodged in Jodhpur Central jail, Rajasthan, had prepared certain notes relating to his detention and wished to share them with his wife's lawyer. "Whatever notes he prepares, he is entitled to the assistance of the lawyer," Mr. Sibal submitted.

'No objection, but...'

Mr. Mehta submitted that he had no objection to the exchange but expressed concern that the alleged delay in providing the grounds of detention to Ms. Angmo should not later be cited as a fresh ground of challenge.

"My Lords are aware of the law on detention. Delay in making a representation is itself a ground. I am not objecting to the sharing of notes... My only caveat is that any delay should not be construed as a violation," he said.

Mr. Sibal clarified that the petitioner would challenge the detention only on the basis of the grounds communicated by the Union government and sought permission to amend the prayers through an interlocutory application, which the court allowed.

In an affidavit filed before the top court on Tuesday, the Ladakh administration said the activist was detained as he was "indulging in activities prejudicial to the security of the State, maintenance of public order and services essential to the community."

However, his wife has accused officials of running a "systematic and false campaign" to malign Mr. Wangchuk's peaceful movement for Ladakh's fragile ecology.

Authorities lift restrictions in Leh, Internet services back

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

The Ladakh administration on Wednesday lifted restrictions on the assembly of more than four persons in Leh, 22 days after the region saw violence that left four civilians dead.

"I hereby withdraw the restrictions imposed under Section 163 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, to prevent any breach of peace and disturbance with immediate effect," an order by Leh District Magistrate Romil Singh Donk said.

The order came in the wake of return of normalcy in Leh in the past two weeks. All educational institutes and markets have re-opened. Mobile Internet services have also been restored.

BJP lines up nominees for bypolls in Jharkhand, Odisha, Telangana, J&K

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Wednesday announced the candidates for the Assembly bypolls in the States of Odisha, Telangana, Jharkhand and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, with repeat candidates and, in some cases, the relatives of incumbents whose passing had necessitated the bypoll.

The BJP re-nominated Babulal Soren, son of former Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren for the bypoll in Ghatsila Assembly seat. The seat had fallen vacant after the death of Jharkhand Mukti Morcha MLA Ramdas Soren. In the 2024 Jharkhand Assembly election, Mr. Ramdas had defeated Mr. Babulal with a margin of 22,446 votes. The Ghatsila Assembly seat is reserved for the Scheduled Tribes (ST) and falls in East Singhbhum district of Jharkhand.

Flying squads deployed to prevent election code violations at Banjara Hills in Hyderabad, ahead of the bypoll. NAGARA GOPAL

In J&K, the BJP announced the names of Aga Syed Mohsin for the Budgam constituency in the Kashmir Valley, and Devyani Rana for the Nagrota constituency in the Jammu division. Ms. Rana is the daughter of former legislator, the late Devender Singh Rana, and niece of Union Minister Jitendra Singh.

In Budgam, which has a sizeable population of Shia Muslims, the BJP has fielded a Shia candidate, who comes from the clergy and is entrenched in the voter base of the constituency. Mr. Mohsin is the son of the late Shia cleric Aga Syed Mustafa Moosavi.

In Odisha, where the BJP is the ruling party, it has fielded Jay Dholakia as its candidate from the Nuapada Assembly seat, which fell vacant following the death of his father and senior Biju Janata Dal (BJD) leader Rajendra Dholakia. In a surprise move, Mr. Jay Dholakia had joined the BJP only last week. Chief Minister Mohan Majhi is likely to fly to Nuapada to accompany the BJP candidate during the filing of his nomination for the bypoll. The BJD, on its part, announced Snehangini Chhuria, a former Minister and a strongwoman leader from western Odisha, as the party's candidate for Nuapada.

In Telangana, the BJP also announced Lankala Deepak Reddy as its candidate for the upcoming Jubilee Hills bypoll, necessitated due to the death of BRS MLA Maganti Gopinath in June this year. All the bypolls are scheduled to be held on November 11, along with the second phase of the Bihar Assembly election with results to be out on November 14.

SC issues notice on plea seeking lawyer access during inquiry

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday sought the response of the Union government, States, and Union Territories on a petition seeking that a person arrested or summoned by investigating agencies be allowed access to a lawyer during any inquiry or investigation.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai and Justice K. Vinod Chandran was hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by advocate Shaffi Mather, contending that although the right to consult a lawyer during interrogation has been statutorily recognised and reaffirmed by the apex court in several judgments, it continues to be inconsistently enforced by authorities.

Senior advocate Menaka Guruswamy, appearing for the petitioner, argued that the presence of a lawyer is vital to ensure that nothing is said which can be self-incriminating as protected under Article 20(3). "This petition only seeks to enforce and expand the fundamental right to access to counsel during all stages of an inquiry or investigation, whether by the police, or by investigating agencies such as the Enforcement Directorate," she said.

When the Bench asked if she could point out instances of such violations, Ms. Guruswamy referred to findings of the National Human Rights Commission , which have highlighted cases of torture during interrogation. "This is a petition by practising lawyers. We have annexed reports which speak to compelling testimony. We are just seeking implementation of Article 20(3)," she said.

BIHAR ASSEMBLY POLLS

Liquor, drugs, freebies valued at ₹33 cr. seized

The Election Commission on Wednesday said that liquor, drugs, cash, and other freebies valued at ₹33.97 crore had been seized in Bihar since the announcement of the schedule for the Assembly election on October 6.

The EC said in a statement that expenditure observers had already been deployed to monitor the election expenses incurred by candidates.

Flying squads, surveillance teams, and video surveillance units are working round-the-clock to monitor any suspected instances of money power or other inducements being used to sway the voters, it said.

The commission said it had also activated an online system called election seizure management system for reporting seizures on a real-time basis during the election period.

Security officials checking a vehicle in Patna ahead of the Bihar Assembly election. PTI

Ekjut NDA, *Ekjut* Bihar, Modi tells party workers

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday asked BJP workers in Bihar to reach out to every household to spread awareness of the schemes launched by the Centre and the Nitish Kumar government, and gave the slogan "*Ekjut* NDA, *Ekjut* Bihar - *Phirse banegi sushashan ki sarkar*"(United NDA, united Bihar - the government of good governance will be formed again).

Interacting with BJP workers through the NaMo app, the Prime Minister asserted the need to make every booth strong to ensure the party's victory. He encouraged booth workers to inform each family in their area about government benefits available to them. "Party wins when every booth is strong," he said after greeting the workers in Bhojpuri. PTI

> Perhaps, the former election campaigner in him [Prashant Kishor] realised that the real situation on the ground is not favourable for him

SHEHZAD POONAWALLA
BJP national spokesperson

EC says ensure poll process is accessible to all

The Election Commission said on Wednesday that it had directed the Chief Electoral Officers to ensure the election process is made accessible to persons with disabilities. In order to help persons with visual disabilities, it has directed the issue of accessible voter information slips with Braille features.

> I can see that there is a spring of developments in Bihar, and prosperity is overflowing everywhere. The NDA will once again form the government

REKHA GUPTA
Delhi Chief Minister

Chirag Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) got 29 seats as part of the NDA's seat-sharing arrangement for Bihar election. FILE PHOTO

BJP firefights as allies protest seat allocation to LJP(RV)

Sobhana K. Nair
Amit Bhelari
NEW DELHI/PATNA

BJP leaders had their hands full on Wednesday as allies Rashtriya Lok Morcha, led by Upendra Kushwaha, and Hindustan Awam Morcha, led by Jitan Ram Manjhi, voiced displeasure over "disproportionate" allocation of seats to the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), led by Chirag Paswan, forcing re-negotiations over several seats.

The Janata Dal (United), while refraining from making a public statement, had also conveyed its resentment. The LJP (RV) has got 29 seats, which, many argue, does not go with the party's past electoral performance. Debuting in the 2005 Assembly election, the LJP had won 29 seats, which has remained the party's highest-ever tally in Bihar elections. The LJP split in 2021, when Mr. Paswan's uncle Pashupati Nath Paras walked away with four of the five party MPs.

On Wednesday morning, Mr. Kushwaha said, "This time, nothing is well with the NDA." His remarks came after a closed-door meeting with Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary and Union Minister Nityanand Rai at his residence that lasted over 90 minutes. Mr. Kushwaha was *en route* to Sasaram for a party event on Tuesday, but returned midway to Patna on learning that two (Dinara and Mahua) of the six seats that he was expecting have been claimed by the LJP(RV).

He left for Delhi for an emergency meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP chief J.P. Nadda. By evening, the issue had been settled. "There is no longer any confusion," he told presspersons in Delhi. According to sources, Mr. Kushwaha managed to wrest a Cabinet berth and another term in the Rajya Sabha for himself, and a berth in the Bihar Legislative Council and positions in various State Boards for his party workers.

RLM announces four names

Later in the evening, he released names of the party's four candidates. He has fielded his wife, Snehlata, from Sasaram. The party did not announce the candidates for Bajpatti and Paroo.

The JD(U) is miffed at Mr. Paswan initially claiming Sonbarsa and Rajgir – two seats the JD(U) had won in the 2020 election. Ratnesh Sada, a close associate of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, has won Sonbarsa three consecutive times since 2010. Rajgir is Mr. Kumar's home turf and has been with the JD(U) for the last two terms. According to sources, Mr. Paswan was eventually forced to give up his claim on the JD(U)'s insistence. It is learnt that Mr. Kumar questioned his party's leaders for allegedly undermining the JD(U)'s interests.

Though JD(U) did not voice resentment, Mr. Manjhi said, "Nitish Kumar*ji*'s anger is justified. I agree with him, when the decision has been made, why is someone else fielding their candidate in seats allocated to the JD(U)? I too will field my candidates in Bodhgaya and Makhdumpur." Both these seats are being claimed by Mr. Paswan.

Mr. Paswan has been silent on the comments. Sources close to him say he has managed to get at least 80% of the seats that he wanted. At the beginning of the negotiation, he was offered only 20 seats, which he outrightly rejected, conveying to the BJP that he was willing to sit out the 2025 election. "We managed to pull through this allocation, because we were well prepared," a top LJP(RV) leader said.

Young and jobless: key demographic weighs claims and promises of parties

NDA government says it has been distributing lakhs of appointment letters for jobs in different sectors, with the Chief Minister promising at several events that 'one crore more jobs will be given in the future'; Tejashwi says lakhs of jobs were provided during the 17 months of grand alliance rule

IN FOCUS

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

Aaditya Kumar is among a group of youth studying on the pavement outside the newly constructed A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Science Centre in Patna. "What a blind person needs is eyesight. What an unemployed youth needs is a job – what else?," the 21-year-old says.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar had, recently, inaugurated the centre, but it is yet to be opened for the public.

A few yards away, inside the Moin-ul-Haq stadium in the Rajendra Nagar area, several other young voters are studying under the open sky, a tree, and a vapour lamp, adjacent to the local Kadam Kuan police station.

These young voters make monthly rental payments of ₹3,000 to ₹5,500 for the dubious privilege of living in the dank, dingy rooms of lodges and hostels in the neighbourhood, and come to this location every evening to study in a group for "guidance and motivation from other students". Most are preparing for recruitment tests for government jobs.

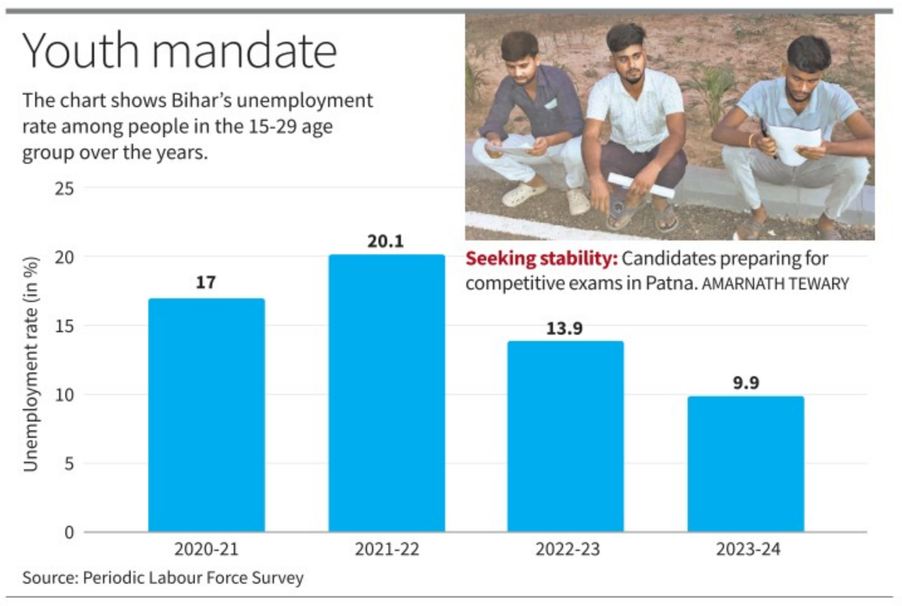
"You do a government job, or otherwise sell vegetables," a student in the corner whispers sheepishly as his friends break into laughter.

In poll-bound Bihar, most young voters agree that the need for government jobs is their top priority. There are about 1.63 crore voters aged 18 to 29, making up 22% of the State's electorate. Of them, 1.5 crore are above the age of 20.

The final electoral roll released after the special intensive revision (SIR) exercise included over 14 lakh first-time voters.

Competing claims

To win over this critical bloc of voters, the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and the Opposition grand alliance have been highlighting their promises on providing jobs to unemployed youth. The Nitish Kumar government recently said it was distributing lakhs of appointment letters for jobs in different sectors, with the Chief Minister promising at several events that "one crore more jobs will be given in the future".



Seeking stability: Candidates preparing for competitive exams in Patna. AMARNATH TEWARY

On the other side of the political divide, Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav has been saying that lakhs of jobs were provided during the 17 months of the previous grand alliance government, when he was the Deputy Chief Minister. "One can imagine how many more jobs will be given when our government comes to power," he says.

"Why is it that the employment or job issue for youth is raked up only when election season hits the State? Why is it not an issue for all the years when a government is in power," asked Saurabh Kumar, 23, returning from the group study.

Migration trigger

According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) for the year 2021-22, the unemployment rate in Bihar is 5.9%, higher than the national average of 4.1%. For the 15-29 age group, the unemployment rate stands at 20.1%, against the national average of 12.4%.

"Lack of employment opportunities has also pushed lakhs of migrants into leaving their native State for livelihood," D.M. Diwakar, the former Director of the Patna-based A.N. Sinha Institute of Social Sciences, told *The Hindu*. There has not been any "clarity in government, neither of State nor at the Centre on job creation", he added.

Economist Sudhanshu Kumar, an Associate Professor at the Bihar Institute of Public Finance and Policy, agreed that the "employment scenario of the youth in the State has been very disturbing". He said: "The youth of the State are mostly engaged in the informal economy and survive through subsistence self-employment or through casual jobs. In urban areas, people settle for jobs that are way below their expertise, while disguised unemployment is common in rural Bihar."

Divided preferences

Asked to name their favourite leaders or parties for whom they intend to cast their vote, young voters appeared to be divided. Some say that a "change in regime every five years is a must", while some voice their preference for the current Chief Minister, who is "working *badhiya* (well) for the State as a whole".

"The new political entrant Prashant Kishor talks sense and raises real issue concerned with youth and people of Bihar," a youngster says. One group of youth favours Mr. Tejashwi, as "he is young himself and he will do something concrete for our employment generation".

"Whoever comes to power after the November 14 result day, he should give us more reservation in jobs for the youth of Bihar and implement 100% domicile policy," Mr. Aaditya said.

Night light data from 2013 and 2023 reveals limited urban growth in Bihar

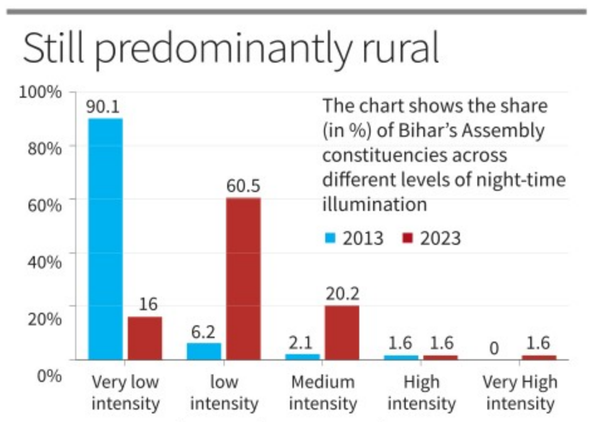
Vignesh Radhakrishnan
Sambavi Parthasarathy
CHENNAI

A comparison of night light data from 2013 and 2023 shows that most Assembly constituencies in Bihar continue to remain predominantly rural. Only a few constituencies have shown significant growth in nighttime luminosity, primarily in Patna, which was already among the more urbanised parts of the State.

Nighttime illumination can serve as a useful proxy for gauging human activity and electricity usage in an area. A higher concentration of night lights often reflects not just street or vehicular lighting, but also ongoing economic activities such as construction or roadwork. Together, these patterns of brightness offer a visual measure of urban growth and development.

The Hindu Data Team uses this method to classify constituencies in a State as rural, semi-rural, semi-urban, or urban. This approach is adopted due to the absence of up-to-date official data on the subject, and as administrative boundaries vary from political boundaries.

The chart shows the share of Bihar's Assembly constituencies across different levels of nighttime illumination – very low and low (mostly rural and some semi-rural areas), medium (semi-rural and semi-urban areas), and high and very high (largely semi-urban areas and cities) – in 2013 and 2023.



Night illumination can serve as a useful proxy for gauging human activity and electricity usage

2013 data

In 2013, nearly 90% of Bihar's Assembly constituencies fell under the "very low" illumination category. By 2023, that figure had dropped sharply to just 16%, with a significant portion of these seats shifting into the "low" and "medium" illumination bands, suggesting that some rural areas have gradually transitioned into semi-rural ones.

In contrast, movement to the "high" and "very high" illumination categories has been negligible. The share of constituencies in the "very high" band – representing mostly cities – rose only slightly, from 0% to 1.6%, while the proportion in the "high" band has remained unchanged. In 2023, all constituencies in the "very high" illumination band were located in Patna, while only three constituencies outside the capital – Gaya Town, Bhagalpur, and Muzaffarpur – fell in the "high" luminosity category.

Tejashwi and Vijay Sinha file papers; Kishor not contesting

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav filed his nomination papers on Wednesday from the Raghopur constituency in Vaishali district, seeking a third consecutive term.

Deputy Chief Minister and BJP leader Vijay Kumar Sinha filed papers from Lakhisarai, along with several other party candidates. He has held the seat since 2010.

Jan Suraaj Party founder and former election strategist Prashant Kishor announced that he would not contest the Assembly election, citing his "responsibility to campaign for other party candidates".

Mr. Yadav was accompanied by his parents – RJD chief Lalu Prasad and former Chief Minister Rabri Devi – as well as his sister and Rajya Sabha member Misa Bharti, and party leader Bhola Yadav.

Mr. Kishor had earlier indicated that he might contest against Mr. Yadav from Raghopur "if his party decided so".

He launched the Jan Suraaj Party's campaign from Raghopur on October 12.

The party has fielded Chanchal Kumar, a former JD(U) member and current vice-president of the Jan Suraaj youth wing.

BJP releases names for all 101 seats; NDA allies unveil first lists

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

The BJP has named candidates for all the 101 seats it is contesting after releasing a second list of 12 candidates and a third of 18 candidates for the Bihar Assembly election on Wednesday.

The Janata Dal(U) and the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), National Democratic Alliance partners, released their first lists. The Janata Dal(U) named 57 and the LJP(RV) 14. Twelve JD(U) candidates are from the Scheduled Caste category. The party has fielded 18 MLAs and dropped four. The list does not include any Muslim candidates.

The party has given ticket to 23 new faces, and has retained Sonbarsa, Alauli, Rajgir, Emka, and Morwa reportedly claimed by the LJP(RV). Sonbarsa and Rajgir are held by the JD(U). In the remaining three, the party was in second position in the last election.

Caste balance has been taken into consideration with 23 candidates from the Koeri, Kurmi and Kushwaha communities.

The party gave the Tarapur seat which it contested last time to BJP candidate and Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary. It has given up the Parbatta seat to allies. In 2020, Parbatta was held by the party.

The BJP has fielded folk singer Maithili Thakur from Alinagar.

The BJP fielded folk singer Maithili Thakur, who joined the party on Tuesday, from Alinagar in Darbhanga district. Mishri Lal Yadav won the seat for the Vikassheel Insan Party in 2020, but he later joined the BJP but the party disowned him for allegedly supporting the RJD during the 2024 floor test.

The BJP has dropped Gyanendra Singh Gyanu, MLA, in Barh in Patna.

Union Minister Chirag Paswan released first list of 14 candidates from LJP (RV), with the woman candidates Sangeeta Devi from Balrampur seat and Rani Kumari from Makhdumpur seat. The list includes three candidates for Scheduled Caste reserved seats. His party got 29 seats under the seat sharing arrangements within the NDA.

INBRIEF

Chaos erupts at Patna airport as Bihar Cong. leaders arrive

Chaotic scenes erupted at the Patna airport on Wednesday evening after Congress State president Rajesh Ram, Bihar in-charge Krishna Allavaru, and senior leader Shakeel Ahmed Khan returned from Delhi following seat-sharing talks. Congress workers from the Bikram Assembly constituency confronted the leaders when they arrived, alleging corruption in ticket distribution. The protesters shouted slogans against their own leaders. Manish, a supporter of Purnea MP Rajesh Ranjan, alias Pappu Yadav, was attacked by Congress workers. All three leaders were seen fleeing the melee as tensions escalated.

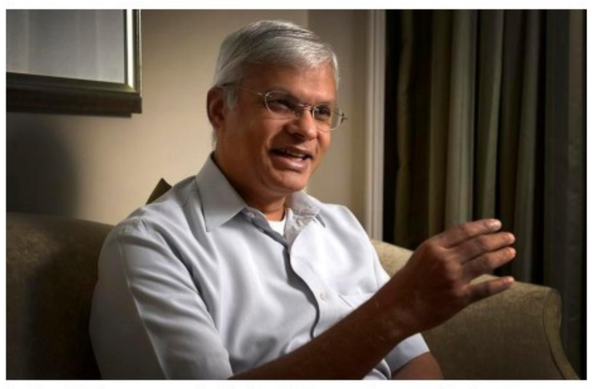
Cough syrup-related toll rises to 25 in M.P. as 3-year-old dies

One more child from Madhya Pradesh's Chhindwara district has died due to kidney failure allegedly caused by the consumption of an adulterated cough syrup, taking the State's toll to 25. According to officials, Ambika Vishwakarma, 3, a resident of Chaurai area, died on Wednesday during treatment at a private hospital in Maharashtra's Nagpur. Chhindwara Additional Collector Dhirendra Singh told *The Hindu* that the child had been admitted in Nagpur since September 14 but her condition did not improve. He added that one child from Chhindwara and another from neighbouring Betul district are currently under treatment in Nagpur.

Indian-origin former official Ashley Tellis held in the U.S.

U.S. Department of Justice's affidavit says that during surveillance, former diplomat was found meeting Chinese officials on various occasions and accessing information on military hardware

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI



Ashley Tellis was arrested in the U.S. over charges of being in possession of secret defence documents. GETTY IMAGES

Officials, diplomats, and policy planners in think tanks reacted with shock and disbelief on the arrest of Ashley Tellis, an Indian-origin former U.S. government official, who has been charged by the U.S. Department of Justice with being in possession of secret defence documents and accessing sensitive information on military hardware. He had been under surveillance over meetings with Chinese officials for at least three years.

Mr. Tellis, 64, is a well-known figure and public speaker in foreign policy circles, and knew most officials handling the India-U.S. relationship in Delhi and Washington over the past decades, since his tenure as Special Assistant to the former U.S. Ambassador to India Robert Blackwill (2000-2003).

The news was particularly surprising for officials of the Ministry of External Affairs, given how Mr. Tellis had what one former official called "extraordinary access" to all levels of foreign policy, defence, and national security structures in New Delhi.

"Ashley was among the few foreigners who had an equally good equation with both [the late former] Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Prime Minister Narendra Modi," a former official, who called Mr. Tellis a "highly regarded scholar", said.

Over the weekend, Mr. Tellis was arrested for the "unlawful retention of national defense information, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 793(e)", a law pertaining to "gathering, transmitting or losing national security information, documents, codes, etc.", a statement issued by the U.S. Attorney's office in Virginia said on Wednesday, adding that a Federal district judge would determine his sentencing if he was convicted, with up to 10 years in prison or fines.

FBI affidavit

The 10-page affidavit filed by Intelligence Analyst and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Special Agent Jeffery Scott on October 13 said Mr. Tellis was taken into custody on October 11, following seizures at his residence in the town of Vienna, Virginia, based on a special warrant. "Investigators located over a thousand pages of paper documents with classification markings at the TOP SECRET and/or SECRET levels at various locations within the house," the affidavit said, adding Mr. Tellis had cooperated in directing investigators, providing keys, and unlocking his computer.

The Hindu spoke to a number of experts, some of whom referred to Mr. Tellis as a "close friend", and expressed surprise over the preliminary findings of a cache of classified documents at his home outside Washington D.C. Allegations that he had been in touch with Chinese officials, including a meeting on September 15, 2022 where he is alleged to have carried documents in a "manila envelope", and received a "red gift bag" from the officials have been met with particular comment, as Mr. Tellis has in articles and speeches argued for better India-U.S. relations in order to contain and manage the challenge from China.

The External Affairs ministry and the U.S. Embassy in Delhi did not comment on the case.

Opposition leaders target Centre over EPFO rule changes

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Leaders from several Opposition parties on Wednesday targeted the Union government over the recent changes to the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) rules, which has raised the period for provident fund account holders to withdraw their money if remaining unemployed.

Salaried class were being punished for the Narendra Modi government's "mishandling of the economy", Manickam Tagore of the Congress, and Saket Gokhale of the Trinamool Congress said on social media, calling for the withdrawal of the provisions by Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya.

The decision to amend the scheme was taken by the Central Board of Trustees on Monday. Unemployed members of retirement fund body EPFO will now be able to get final settlement or full withdrawal of funds from the provident fund and pension accounts after 12 months and 36 months of unemployment, respectively. At present, the scheme provides for withdrawal of all funds from the provident fund as well as pension account after two months of continuous unemployment.

Mr. Tagore called the change in rules nothing short of "cruelty", and asked, "Who benefits from this, Mr. Modi?", before arguing that this move would "finish" the lives of pensioners who depended on the EPF to survive. Mr. Gokhale called the changes "shocking and ridiculous".

The government, in a fact sheet, said these statements were "misleading" and a "misinterpretation of facts". "The decision of the CBT enables a member to have a fine balance between liberal withdrawal options for various exigencies and personal needs by allowing the withdrawal of 75% of the funds without documentation and still leaving a decent corpus that will be available at the time of retirement," it said.

The government said that statements alleging workers can only withdraw "75% of their savings" were "incorrect". It said, "100% of the Eligible balance (excluding the 25% minimum balance) can be withdrawn" by those who have finished at least 12 months of services under any of the "simplified provisions" any time during the year.

FIR registered over ASI Sandeep Lather's death; Haryana CM meets family

The Hindu Bureau
ROHTAK

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini meets the family of Assistant Sub-Inspector Sandeep Lather in Rohtak. ANI/X

A first information report was registered on Wednesday in connection with the alleged suicide of Assistant Sub-Inspector Sandeep Lather a day earlier, accusing the late IPS officer Y. Puran Kumar and his family of corruption, an official said.

The case was registered a few hours after Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Saini met with the family at Ladhot village during the day and assured them of justice and all possible assistance.

After registration of the case, the family gave its consent for post-mortem.

Lather, posted at the Rohtak Police Cyber Cell, had ended his life after making allegations of corruption against Puran and his family in a four-page note and video.

Rohtak Police spokesperson confirmed the registration of the FIR. A source claimed that four persons, including the late IPS officer's wife and senior IAS officer Amneet. P. Kumar, his brother-in-law and Aam Aadmi Party MLA Amit Amit Rattan, and Puran's personal security officer (PSO) Sushil Kumar, already in jail in an extortion case, were named in the case.

The source said the government had also agreed to the demands to grant martyr status to the deceased and a government job to the next of kin.

(Those in distress can contact TeleMANAS at 14416 to seek help)

Autopsy performed after IPS officer's wife gives consent

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Eight days after Haryana IPS officer Y. Puran Kumar was found dead in his home with a gunshot wound, the post-mortem was conducted on Wednesday at the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research here, after Kumar's wife, senior IAS officer Amneet P. Kumar, gave her consent.

Later, the last rites were performed, and a guard of honour was presented by a police contingent.

A PGIMER statement said: "The report will be submitted to the Investigating Officer of the Special Investigation Team. The mortal remains have been handed over to the family members."

Earlier, the deceased officer's family had refused to allow the post-mortem until the two key accused – Haryana Director-General of Police Shatrujeet Kapur and former Rohtak Superintendent of Police Narendra Bijarniya – were arrested. Amid the demand for action, the Haryana government on Tuesday sent Mr. Kapur on leave. Earlier, Mr. Bijarniya was transferred.

Ms. Amneet agreed for the post-mortem, to be carried out as per the prescribed procedure with the presence of a ballistic expert, under the supervision of a Magistrate, and with videography of the entire process, to ensure complete transparency.

Meanwhile, a CPI(M) delegation led by party general secretary M.A. Baby, including R.L. Moudgil, Punjab State committee member, met the family of the deceased officer.

Delhi HC seeks response on vacancies in National Commission for Minorities

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

The petition says NCM posts have remained vacant since April, when Chairman Iqbal Singh Lalpura's term ended

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday sought a response from the Union government on long-pending vacancies in the National Commission for Minorities (NCM).

A Division Bench of Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela, while hearing a PIL plea filed by Mujahid Nafees, who claimed to be the convener of the Minority Coordination Committee working on the welfare of minorities across India, pointed out that the commission cannot remain headless for so long.

Granting time to the Central government's counsel to obtain instructions in the matter, the court said the petition was raising a very important issue.

"Do not wait for the next date of hearing. Please ensure that things start moving," the court said. The petition stated that the posts of chairperson, vice-chairperson and members of the NCM have been vacant since April, the month Iqbal Singh Lalpura completed his term as chairman.

The National Commission for Minorities which works under the Ministry of Minority Affairs and has quasi-judicial powers, should have seven members, including the Chairperson, and the Vice-Chairperson. The National Commission of Minorities Act, 1992 mandates the appointment of one member from each of the six minority communities – Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, Parsi, and Jain.

"There is a complete and systematic incapacitation of the National Commission for Minorities due to the Centre's failure to appoint its head and members ," the plea states.

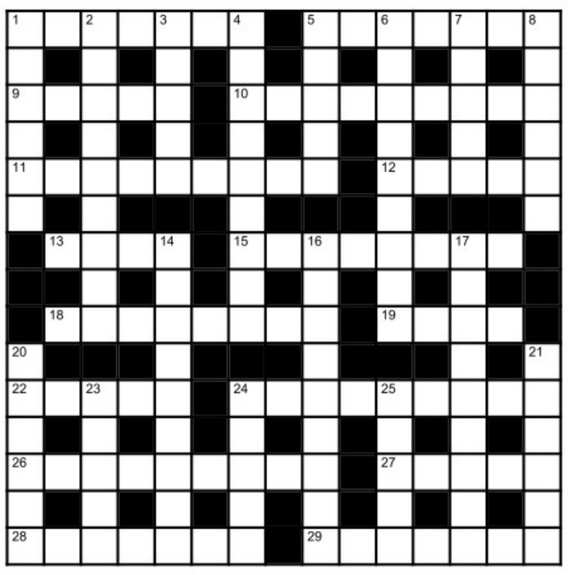
The petition added that the government's inaction is further aggravated by the fact that it is in direct contravention of the spirit and letter of a prior order from the High Court where it had expressed its dissatisfaction with such delays.

TH CROSSWORD + 14615

(set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Instrument starts transmitting info, most people are not informed (7)
5 Transportation allowance is through, law reviewed about one (7)
9 Inner diameter of ring used to operate this lever (5)
10 Trendsetter on page one comes before God (9)
11 Think about where — at sea or coast? (9)
12 Push a girl in with nothing on (5)
13 List half a cycle (4)
15 Faculty agree to be housed in a cube, perhaps (8)
18 Discourage bottles — able to get an ornamental glass bottle (8)
19 Essentially run over the mountain in Sicily (4)
22 Deny rejecting potato in any form (5)
24 Extremely sharp — top of crow bar set wrongly (9)
26 Filling might assemble team (9)
27 Two points for a girl to follow (5)
28 Feel sorry about offside — what is left? (7)
29 Longed for attention, in return refuse to give protection (7)

Down

1 Blunt warning? (3-3)
2 Prepared a brief internal review on stone coral (9)
3 Eagle Town sans borders — looking very happy (5)
4 Instrument effect? (9)
5 Breaking love match — banish them for being talkative (5)
6 Trigger a land mine to get mineral (9)
7 Annoyed about one thousand loss (5)
8 Old housing — soldier admitted (6)
14 A way to crush resistance and end up with discrimination (9)
16 Too soon accepting to fit in seriously (9)
17 Hire in two lots — the issue is with the minions (7-2)
20 Pick proper sides and free movement (6)
21 Time to intervene at close, deal with it (6)
23 The bard ignites (5)
24 Material content for mediocre people (5)
25 Clyster's namesake, ask to go off for a purge (5)

SUDOKU

8	6		5					
					4		2	
3	4				7	5		
	7			6	9			
5		9				6		3
			1	2			7	
		5	8				4	6
	1		4					
					2		5	7

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

D	A	F	F	O	D	I	L	■	G	A	U	C	H	E
E	■	A	■	E	■	N	■	C	■	S	■	A	■	D
A	R	S	E	N	A	L	■	O	B	S	E	R	V	E
R	■	T	■	O	■	O	■	N	■	A	■	O	■	N
T	W	E	R	P	■	C	A	T	A	M	O	U	N	T
H	■	N	■	H	■	O	■	R	■	■	■	S	■	A
■	■	■	D	I	S	P	L	A	C	E	M	E	N	T
A	■	F	■	L	■	A	■	C	■	M	■	L	■	E
P	E	R	P	E	T	R	A	T	I	O	N	■	■	■
P	■	U	■	■	■	E	■	B	■	T	■	U	■	D
A	S	I	A	M	I	N	O	R	■	I	S	S	U	E
R	■	T	■	A	■	T	■	I	■	C	■	E	■	L
E	F	F	E	N	D	I	■	D	O	O	R	D	I	E
N	■	U	■	G	■	S	■	G	■	N	■	T	■	T
T	A	L	L	O	W	■	G	E	M	S	T	O	N	E

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

6	7	2	4	8	5	1	9	3
9	1	8	3	6	7	2	5	4
5	4	3	9	1	2	7	6	8
7	9	4	6	2	1	8	3	5
3	8	1	5	7	4	9	2	6
2	5	6	8	3	9	4	7	1
4	2	5	1	9	6	3	8	7
1	3	9	7	5	8	6	4	2
8	6	7	2	4	3	5	1	9

FAITH

Pareekshit banishes Kali

Pareekshit came across a three-legged bull and a sad cow, being beaten by a man dressed like a king. The bull was Dharma devata. Pareekshit said that in the past, dharma had four legs – penance, cleanliness, mercy and honesty. Now three legs had been cut off, namely penance, cleanliness and mercy. The only leg left was honesty. But that leg too was in danger of being lost. With dharma getting weakened, naturally, the earth was overburdened with sin. That was the reason for the sadness of the cow, who was Mother Earth. The man beating the animals was Kali Purusha, said Valayapet Ramachariar in a discourse. Pareekshit picked up his sword to slay Kali, when the latter bowed before him. Pareekshit said that being a descendant of Arjuna, he would not kill one who had surrendered. But he ordered Kali to leave his country at once. Wherever Kali resided, greed, dishonesty, rudeness, deceit, quarrels and pride would rule the roost. Kali could not remain in a country where sages performed yagas. Kali being spoken to thus by Pareekshit shook with fear.

Kali told Pareekshit that wherever he (Kali) looked, he could see Pareekshit armed with his bow and arrow. So where could he live without fear? He asked Pareekshit to tell him where he should live. Pareekshit said that where gambling, drinking and immorality prevailed, that place should be Kali's abode. A place where there was a love of gold would be an ideal place for Kali to live in, because where there was gold, one would find undesirable traits in men. So, anyone desirous of peace of mind had to avoid gambling, drinking, immorality and gold, because Kali would enter areas where these were found.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	82,605	0.70
US Dollar	88.08	0.82
Gold	1,31,800	0.76
Brent oil	62.03	-0.60

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2532.80	15.80
Adani Ports	1450.70	21.70
Apollo Hosp	7826.00	67.00
Asian Paints	2375.10	57.00
Axis Bank	1169.60	-7.20
Bajaj Auto	8998.00	-104.50
Bajaj Finserv	2084.10	64.70
Bajaj Finance	1059.90	40.75
Bharat Elec	408.10	5.70
Bharti Airtel	1968.50	21.90
Cipla	1558.70	6.40
Coal India	384.25	3.30
Dr Reddys Lab	1232.40	-4.90
Tata Motors CV	260.75	0.00
Eicher Motors	6895.00	8.00
Eternal Ltd.	354.35	6.60
Grasim Ind	2816.80	41.00
HCL Tech	1495.70	0.30
HDFC Bank	978.25	1.10
HDFC Life	761.15	17.60
Hindalco	764.25	4.15
Hind Unilever	2519.00	16.70
ICICI Bank	1398.40	14.30
IntGlobeAvi	5860.50	101.50
Infosys	1474.40	-15.50
ITC	399.90	3.10
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	312.65	7.05
JSW Steel	1160.80	13.00
Kotak Bank	2149.60	-2.20
L&T	3828.70	84.40
M&M	3497.20	37.40
Maruti Suzuki	16212.00	-49.00
Max Healthcare	1155.80	-5.70
NestleIndia	1221.40	45.90
NTPC	339.25	2.60
ONGC	247.72	3.03
PowerGrid Corp	290.95	3.45
Reliance Ind	1374.30	-1.60
SBI Life	1840.60	24.40
State Bank	886.10	9.15
Shriram Finance Ltd.	677.15	2.70
Sun Pharma	1655.10	0.70
TataConsumerProduct	1114.20	-4.70
Tata Motors	390.85	-4.60
Tata Steel	173.24	2.73
TCS	2969.80	9.50
Tech Mahindra	1459.00	-9.00
Titan	3549.00	11.60
Trent Ltd.	4724.20	107.00
UltraTech Cement	12311.00	241.00
Wipro	250.21	1.79

'Not the right time for official negotiation on trade deal with U.S.'

Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal says a team from India is in the U.S. to discuss tariffs; but manpower is low in the U.S. in view of the shutdown

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

A team from India is currently in the U.S. to discuss issues relating to tariffs, according to Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal.

However, due to the ongoing shutdown in the U.S. government, it is not "the right time" to hold the next official round of negotiations on a Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA), he said.

Mr. Agrawal, currently still the chief negotiator for India on the BTA, further said that India would be "very happy" to increase its energy imports from the U.S. The U.S. government is currently undergoing a 'shutdown' as it has not been able to enact the required funding legislation for the current financial year in that country.

"Our negotiating team is in the U.S. and is trying to see if we can have a win-win solution between the two sides that can address some of the tariff issues," Mr. Agrawal said during a press briefing on Wednesday. "There is already a discussion going on and there is always a hope of arriving at a solution."

Trouble shooting: Both sides are actively discussing how to find a solution to the trade tensions between India and the U.S REUTERS

"Regarding the formal rounds of negotiations, the U.S. is currently in shutdown and their manpower strength is down and so this is not the right time to have a full fledged trade negotiation," the Commerce Secretary said, in response to a query by *The Hindu*. However, he added that both sides are actively discussing how to find a solution to the current trade tensions between India and the U.S.

"As a country, we will be very happy to buy more energy from the US subject to it being available at the right price," he said.

Growth outlook is softer and below expectations: Malhotra

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Even though growth is strong by the current reckoning, its outlook is softer and is expected to be below the Reserve Bank's expectations, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra observed during the last Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting, the minutes of which were released on Wednesday.

"The benign outlook for headline and core inflation as a result of the downward revision of projections opens up policy space to further support growth. However, several growth-inducing policies unveiled by the Government and the Reserve Bank should help growth, going ahead," he observed.

'Uncertainties evolving'
Stating that the cumulative impact of fiscal and monetary measures was yet to be realised fully, he said tariff-related uncertainties were still evolving.

"There is elevated uncertainty on the external front. In view of these factors, even though there is policy space to further cut the policy rate, I feel this is not the opportune time for the same as it will not have the desirable impact," he pointed out.

"Therefore, I vote to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 5.50%. The intent of policy, nevertheless, is to continue to facilitate growth-enabling conditions. Some of the regulatory measures announced today will also be supportive of this objective," he emphasised.

Retains neutral stance
He also preferred to retain the neutral stance as any change to an accommodative stance at this stage, as suggested by some members, would tantamount to giving a definitive forward guidance about the future trajectory of the policy rate.

"The policy uncertainty, rapidly evolving developments and the foggy outlook suggest that we exercise caution and take a view for each policy as per the then prevailing macroeconomic conditions and outlook," he said in conclusion.

INBRIEF

PV dispatches rose 4% in Sept. at 3,72,458 units: SIAM data

Passenger vehicle (PV) dispatches from companies to dealers rose 4% year-on-year in September to 3,72,458 units, industry body SIAM said on Wednesday. The overall PV dispatches last month rose 4.4% to 3,72,458 units, as against 3,56,752 units in September 2024. Two-wheeler sales witnessed a 7% on-year rise to 21,60,889 units last month, as compared with 20,25,993 units in the year-ago period, the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) said. PTI

Gold hit record ₹1.27 lakh per 10 g, crosses $4,200 an ounce

Gold prices on Wednesday surged by ₹1,244, reaching a new all-time high of ₹1,27,500 per 10 grams in domestic futures trade, while the yellow metal breached the $4,200 per ounce level in global markets. Analysts said traders rushed to safe-haven assets after renewed geopolitical and trade worries clouded the global economic outlook. The sentiment was further buoyed by remarks from Fed Chair Jerome Powell, hinting at a possible monetary easing later this year. PTI

BoI, StanChart to finance AI subsidiary's fleet services

Bank of India and Standard Chartered bank are set to finance AI Fleet Services IFSC Ltd. (AIFS), the leasing subsidiary of Air India at GIFT City, the banks said in a statement. "AIFS has entered into a 7-year amortising term loan facility for financing of six Boeing 777-300 ER aircraft, it will lease the aircraft to Air India," according to the statement. This landmark transaction is the first commercial aircraft finance transaction to be structured with a GIFT City borrower, it said.

HMIL to invest ₹45,000 cr. by FY30

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Hyundai Motor India Limited (HMIL) on the occasion of its first-ever Investor Day, announced to invest ₹45,000 crore by 2030 with a target to achieve 15% domestic market share.

The company on Wednesday presented a comprehensive strategic roadmap that includes India centric product expansion plans, deep localisation and key financial guidance to support its growth trajectory through FY2030.

HMIL also announced that Tarun Garg would be its next MD & CEO effective January 1, 2026.

Axis Bank Q2 net profit slips 26%

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Axis Bank Ltd., for the second quarter ended September 30, 2025, reported a 26% decline in standalone net profit to ₹5,090 crore from the year-earlier period due to Reserve Bank mandated one-time provisioning. Following an RBI advisory, Axis Bank said post its FY25 annual inspection, in Q2 FY26, it made an additional one-time standard asset provision of ₹1,231 crore for two discontinued crop loan variants. The customer terms remain unchanged.

The net interest income stood at ₹13,745 crore, up 2%, on a YoY basis.

U.K. slaps sanctions on Nayara refinery

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

The British government has sanctioned the Vadinar (Jamnagar) oil refinery, owned by Nayara Energy Ltd., on Wednesday. The action is part of U.K.'s sanctions on Russia's two largest oil companies, Lukeoil and Rosneft, which own 49.13% of Nayara. The E.U. had already sanctioned the refinery on July 18.

The timing of the U.K. sanctions is significant, coming days after U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer led a large trade delegation to Mumbai and U.K.-India relations appeared to touch a new high. New Delhi and London also signed a comprehensive free trade agreement (FTA) on July 24, when PM Narendra Modi had visited the U.K.

The sanctions come after U.K. PM Keir Starmer's India visit.

The sanctions comprise an asset freeze, director disqualification and transport sanctions and sanctions on U.K. trust services (financial sanctions).

"We are sending a clear signal: Russian oil is off the market," U.K. Chancellor Rachel Reeves Reeves said.

Nayara imported 100 million barrels of Russian crude (worth over $5 billion) last year, as per U.K.

China files WTO complaint on India's EV, battery subsidies

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

China has filed a complaint against India in the World Trade Organization (WTO) over New Delhi's subsidies for electric vehicles (EVs) and batteries.

Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said that the Ministry will look into the detailed submissions made by China.

Similar applications
Confirming the move, an official said that China had also filed similar applications against Turkiye, Canada and the EU.

"They have sought consultations with India," the official said.

Seeking consultation is the first step of the dispute settlement process as per WTO rules.

If the consultations requested with India do not result in a satisfactory solution, the EU can request the WTO set up a panel in the case to rule on the issue raised.

China is the second-largest trading partner of India. In the last fiscal, India's exports to China contracted 14.5% to $14.25 billion against $16.66 billion in 2023-24.

The imports, however, rose by 11.52% in 2024-25 to $113.45 billion against $101.73 billion in 2023-24.

India's trade deficit with China had widened to $99.2 billion during the year 2024-25.

Bharti partners IBM to add AI capabilities to cloud product

Aroon Deep
MUMBAI

IBM is partnering Bharti Airtel Ltd. to 'augment' the telco's recently-unveiled cloud offering, the U.S. tech firm said at its *IBM Think* event here.

Sandip Patel, MD, IBM in India and South Asia, said the partnership would help Bharti Airtel's cloud product – unveiled in August as a solution for industries keen on storing data within Indian borders – benefit from AI tools that the technology firm offers its clients.

The partnership aims at making AI-enabled offerings more attractive for

Bharti will benefit from IBM's AI tools, says Patel.

"mission-critical applications in regulated industries like banking, healthcare, government and others," where Mr. Patel and other IBM executives said the shift to newer technologies is slower and more cautious.

Extending footprint
"With this partnership, we are also extending the footprint of our availability zones in India from four to ten, hosting these on our own next-gen sustainable data centres," Airtel MD Gopal Vittal said.

"We will, together, also establish two new Multi-zone Regions (MZRs) in Mumbai and Chennai soon," he added. On Tuesday, Bharti Airtel announced a deal with Google for the technology firm's Visakhapatnam data centre.

(The writer was in Mumbai at the invitation of IBM)

Galeries Lafayette, AB firm to open fashion store

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Galeries Lafayette, one of the world's most celebrated department stores, in partnership with Aditya Birla Fashion & Retail Ltd., unveiled it's first Indian flagship store in the Fort area of Mumbai where very expensive fashion products of the highest order would be retailed.

Kumar Mangalam Birla, chairman, Aditya Birla Group, said: "Our partnership with Galeries Lafayette marks a coming-of-the-age moment for Indian luxury retail."

KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - E -TENDER NOTICE

O/o The Executive Engineer , Electrical Division, Kazhakuttom, Thiruvananthapuram
E Tender ID No. 2025_KSEB_809311_1, PAC: Rs.1,24,38,113/-, Last Date: 25.10.2025, 06.00 pm

O/o the Executive Engineer, PMU, Electrical Circle, Nilambur, Malappuram
E Tender ID No. 2025_KSEB_809467, PAC: Rs.1,62,86,165/-, Last Date: 29.10.2025, 04.00 pm

O/o the Chief Engineer , TransGrid, Shoranur, Palakkad
E Tender ID No.2025_KSEB_801334, PAC: Rs.111,20,78,395/-, Last Date: 25.11.2025, 05.00 pm

Visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in and www.kseb.in
Ref : PR/MC1/E581/E-tender/2025

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.
Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001.
Corporate Identity Number : U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website : www.pspcl.in (Contact No. 96461-18774)

TENDER ENQUIRY No. MQP-260/2025-26/PR | Dated 15.10.2025

CE/Metering, PSPCL, C-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender for procurement of 84,000 no. 1-in-1 Polycarbonate Meter Boxes (Cabinets) for incorporating Single Phase Energy meters. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 15.10.2025 (05:00 PM onwards).

NOTE: Corrigendum and amendments, if any, will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

C 739/25 | 1079/12/2025-26/4240

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING CHIEF ENGINEER, P.W.D. CIRCLE, DAUSA

क्रमांक फा/25-26/डी-3091-3104 | दिनांक : 03/10/2025

Notice Inviting Bid 10/2025-26

Bids for Nit No. 10/2025-26, 03 Nos. Road Work are invited from interested bidders upto Date 29.10.2025, 06.00 P.M. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (**http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in**) of the state and departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 1280.81 Lacs

NIB CODE:- PWD2526A3698 UBN. NO : PWD2526WLOB13926
NIB CODE:- PWD2526A3711 UBN. NO : PWD2526WSOB13971
NIB CODE:- PWD2526A3710 UBN. NO : PWD2526WSOB13970

एम.एल. मीना
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
सा.नि.वि. वृत्त, दौसा

DIPR/C/14991/2025

KERALA MARITIME BOARD
(A statutory Board of Govt. of Kerala)
HO TC XXII/1666 (4&5), 1st Floor, Mulamoottil Building, Pipinmoodu, Sasthamangalam, Pin: 695010.

RE - TENDER NOTICE

Development of Maritime Enclave at Port Bungalow, Kozhikode

The Kerala Maritime Board (KMB) invites a re-tender for the development of **Maritime Enclave at Port Bungalow, Kozhikode [E-Tender Number: 2025_KMB_774245_2] in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode**. The detailed tender document can be downloaded from Government of Kerala's e-procurement portal **(www.etenders.kerala.gov.in)**.

Proposals must be submitted on or before **03.11.2025, 06:55 PM.**

For further information contact us on **0471-2910040 / 9544410029** or email us to **kmb.kerala@gmail.com**

D3/761/2025/ | Sd/- **CEO**

APPOINTMENTS

CSIR-INDIAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL TECHNOLOGY
(Council of Scientific & Industrial Research)
UPPAL ROAD, HYDERABAD, TELANGANA -500 007

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW NOTIFICATION NO. PS/09/2025

CSIR-IICT, Hyderabad is conducting Walk-in-Interviews on 31st October 2025 for the positions of Project Staff having qualifications of M.Sc. in Chemistry/ M.Tech in Chemical Engineering/ B.Tech in Chemical Engineering/ M. Pharm etc.

For full details visit our website www.iictindia.org

Sd/-
Controller of Administration

Advertisement No. **90/2025**
Government of India
Public Enterprises Selection Board
invites applications for the post of
Director (Operations)
in
Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL)

Last date of submission of application by applicants is by 15:00 hours on
30th October, 2025

Last date of forwarding of applications by the Nodal Officers to PESB is by 17:00 hours on
10th November, 2025

For details login to website
https://pesb.gov.in

MADHYA PRADESH PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES CORPN. LTD.
(A Government of Madhya Pradesh Undertaking)
Oil Fed Building, 01, Arera Hills, Bhopal
URL : https://mpphscl.mp.gov.in, Phone : 0755-2578915
Dated : 14.10.2025

TENDER NOTICE

Tenders for following item/Services floated on website and Portal from dated 14.10.2025 to next 30 days:
1. Tender Ref. No. T-734/MPPHSCL/Diflubenzuron 25% WP/RC/2025 Date- 10.10.2025
2. Tender (s) for Cardiology Consumables
3. Tender (s) for Supply of COVID Consumable and Kits
4. Tender (s) for Cyphenothrin 5% EC and Pyrethrum Extract 2%
5. Tender (s) for Various Drugs
6. Tender (s) for Various Consumables
7. Tender (s) for Various Equipments

All Prospective bidders are requested to visit **www.mptenders.gov.in./https://mpphscl.mp.gov.in, https://gem.gov.in** for further details.

M.P. Madhyam/122529/2025 | **CGM (TECHNICAL)**

PESHAWAR

Second Pak. official killed while guarding polio team in two days

AP

Militants killed a police officer guarding polio vaccination workers in northwest Pakistan on Wednesday, police said, in the second such attack in as many days. Wednesday's attack was claimed by a militant group called Ittehad-ul-Mujahideen Pakistan, a local offshoot of the Pakistani Taliban. AFP

TEHRAN

'Iran prisoners stage protest and hunger strike against executions'

AFP

Inmates detained inside one of Iran's largest prisons have for the last two days staged a sit-in protest and a hunger strike against the growing number of executions in the Islamic republic, rights groups said on Wednesday. The protest have been going on at Ghezel Hesar prison in the city of Karaj outside Tehran. AFP

ADDIS ABABA

AU suspends Madagascar with 'immediate effect' after coup

AFP

The African Union said it was suspending Madagascar "with immediate effect" after a coup saw an elite Army unit seize power following President Andry Rajoelina's impeachment. Madagascar's top court had earlier confirmed Colonel Michael Randrianirina as President to plunge the poor Indian Ocean nation into crisis. AFP

SEOUL

South Korea bans travel to parts of Cambodia after student's killing

AFP

Seoul on Wednesday banned travel to parts of Cambodia with South Korea shaken by the torture and killing of a college student there. The move comes as Seoul sent a team to the Southeast Asian country on Wednesday to discuss cases of fake jobs and scam centres involved in kidnapping dozens of its nationals. AFP

Truce called after dozens killed in Pak.-Afghan clashes

Islamabad claims to have carried out 'precision strikes' in Afghanistan capital; Pakistan's military accuses the Afghan Taliban of attacking two major border posts in the southwest and northwest

Agence France-Presse
SPIN BOLDAK

Tense city: Smoke rises from the site of explosions in Kabul on Wednesday, amid clashes between Afghanistan and Pakistan. AFP

Dozens of troops and civilians were killed in a fresh round of border skirmishes between Pakistan and Afghanistan on Wednesday, officials on both sides of the frontier said, hours before Islamabad said the two sides had agreed to a 48-hour ceasefire.

The ceasefire was announced by Pakistan's Foreign Ministry after a week of violence between the two neighbours that flared after explosions in Kabul and elsewhere in Afghanistan that were blamed on Pakistan.

The Taliban government in Kabul launched an offensive along parts of its southern border in retaliation, prompting Islamabad to vow a strong response of its own.

Islamabad has accused Afghanistan of harbouring militant groups led by the Pakistani Taliban (TTP) on its soil, a claim Kabul denies.

With both countries on edge, plumes of black smoke were seen rising above Kabul after the two blasts in the Afghan capital on Wednesday evening. Taliban government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said an oil tanker and a generator had exploded, sparking fires, although he did not explicitly link the blasts to the clashes with Pakistan.

However, a Pakistani security source said that Islamabad had carried out "precision strikes" in the Afghan capital.

Ambulances raced through Kabul and shattered glass from damaged buildings littered the streets. Taliban forces also cordoned off some city streets.

The ceasefire was announced by Islamabad barely an hour later. Taliban authorities in Kabul ordered the Army to respect the ceasefire.

Pakistan's military earlier accused the Afghan Taliban of attacking two major border posts in the southwest and northwest. It said both assaults were repelled, with about 20 Taliban fighters killed in attacks launched near Spin Boldak on the Afghan side of the frontier in southern Kandahar province early on Wednesday.

"Unfortunately the attack was orchestrated through divided villages in the area, with no regard for the civil population," the military said.

It also said about 30 more were thought to have been killed in overnight clashes along Pakistan's northwest border.

The Afghan Taliban said 15 civilians were killed and dozens wounded in the clashes near Spin Boldak and that "two to three" of its fighters were also killed.

Taliban spokesman Mujahid said in an earlier statement that 100 civilians were also wounded around Spin Boldak, adding that calm had returned after Pakistani soldiers were killed and weapons seized. The Pakistan military said these were "outrageous and blatant lies". Pakistan did not give a toll for its losses in the latest clashes but said last week 23 of its troops had been killed in the opening skirmishes.

Syrian leader seeks reset in Russia ties in his first Putin meeting since Assad's ouster

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

Touching base: Ahmed al-Sharaa, left, and Vladimir Putin at their meeting at the Grand Kremlin Palace in Moscow on Wednesday. AP

Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa [Muhammad al-Jolani] said on Wednesday he wanted to "redefine" relations with Moscow as Russian President Vladimir Putin hosted him in Moscow, their first meeting since key Kremlin ally Bashar al-Assad was ousted last year.

In front of the television cameras, Mr. Putin greeted Mr. Sharaa warmly at the Kremlin, but behind closed doors, the Syrian leader was expected to push for Moscow to extradite Mr. Assad, who fled to Moscow after being toppled.

Russian bases

The two were also expected to discuss the status of Russia's prized military bases in the country – the naval base in Tartus and air base at Hmeimim – the fate of which have been uncertain since the rebel takeover.

Russia was a key ally of Mr. Assad during the bloody 14-year Syrian civil war, providing vital military support that kept his forces in power.

But he was ousted from power last December in an offensive led by Mr. Sharaa's Islamist forces, fleeing to Russia, which has been sheltering him and his family for the past 10 months.

In remarks at the start of the meeting, Mr. Sharaa acknowledged the two countries' historic ties but said he wanted a recalibration, as he brings Damascus in from isolation on the world stage.

"We are trying to restore and redefine in a new way the nature of these relations so there is independence for Syria, sovereign Syria, and also its territorial unity and integrity and its security stability," Mr. Sharaa told Mr. Putin.

The Russian leader hailed "special relations" between the two countries that "have developed between our countries over many decades."

Neither mentioned Mr. Assad or the Russian bases, the main sticking points in the relationship.

Assad asylum

A Syrian government official said before the meeting that Mr. Sharaa would request Mr. Putin hand over Mr. Assad, who Russia says it is protecting on "humanitarian grounds."

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov confirmed earlier this week the ousted leader was still living in Moscow.

Aid enters Gaza, Israel to open Rafah crossing

Reuters
JERUSALEM/CAIRO

Aid trucks rolled into Gaza on Wednesday and Israel resumed preparations to open the main Rafah crossing after a dispute over the return of the bodies of dead hostages that had threatened to derail the fragile ceasefire deal with Hamas.

Israel had threatened to keep Rafah shut and reduce aid supplies because Hamas was returning bodies too slowly.

However, the militant group returned more Israeli bodies overnight, and an Israeli security official said on Wednesday preparations were under way to open Rafah to Gazan citizens, while a second official said that 600 aid trucks would go in.

Hamas returned four bodies confirmed as dead hostages on Monday and another four bodies late on Tuesday, though Israeli authorities said one of those bodies was not that of a hostage. The dispute over the return of bodies still has the potential to upset the ceasefire deal along with other major issues that are yet to be resolved.

Sri Lanka PM Amarasuriya to arrive in New Delhi today

Meera Srinivasan

Harini Amarasuriya

Sri Lanka's Prime Minister Harini Amarasuriya will arrive in New Delhi on Thursday for events and high-level meetings with Indian leaders and business community representatives, on the heels of her visit to Beijing, where she attended the 'Global Leaders' Meeting on Women 2025.

During her three-day visit to India, her first since assuming charge as Premier last year, Ms. Amarasuriya is scheduled to meet with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, who is scheduled to call on her on Thursday, according to official sources in New Delhi.

The visiting Sri Lankan leader will also interact with representatives of business chambers and industry bodies, officials said, as India and Sri Lanka seek to enhance partnership in trade, investment, and development cooperation.

Mr. Modi was in Sri Lanka in April 2025 and said he was "grateful" for President Anura Kumara Dissanayake's "sensitivity towards Indian interests".

Mr. Dissanayake – the leftist leader who was elected to the country's top office in a watershed election in 2024 – and his government have vowed to pursue a neutral foreign policy, including with India and China, both key partners for the island nation.

On Tuesday, Ms. Amarasuriya met Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. "Our discussion focused on strengthening bilateral cooperation, advancing development partnerships under the Belt and Road Initiative, and deepening collaboration across multiple sectors," she said in a social media post following the meeting.

A statement from the Chinese Foreign Ministry described China and Sri Lanka as "fellow travellers" and said "China always regards Sri Lanka as a priority in its neighbourhood diplomacy".

Further, Mr. Xi, in his meeting with Ms. Amarasuriya, said China stands ready to work with Sri Lanka on "high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, expand cooperation in port economy, modern agriculture, digital economy, green economy, tourism, and other areas to boost Sri Lanka's economic and social development." The two sides agreed to strengthen security cooperation, according to the statement.

Ms. Amarasuriya's engagements in New Delhi also include a felicitation event at Hindu College, Delhi University, from where the academic-turned-politician obtained her first degree. An anthropologist by training, she was a prominent voice in Sri Lankan academia, teaching at the Open University of Sri Lanka, before joining active politics. Her research in areas including mental health, gender, labour, and involvement as an activist in campaigns for higher state spending on public education drew attention. Prior to her entry into active politics in 2020, when the National People's Power nominated her to Parliament, Ms. Amarasuriya served as a member of the Public Representations Committee on Constitutional Reforms in Sri Lanka, a Cabinet-appointed mechanism tasked with the first country-wide public consultations on constitutional reform.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
TELANGANA INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE CORPORATION LIMITED (TGIIC)
[e-Auction Notification No: TGIIC/RAIDURG LANDS/AUCTION/2025 Dated 16-10-2025]

TGIIC provides an Opportunity to Own Encumbrance Free Prime Land Parcels Zoned Under Multi-Use at Knowledge City Layout, Raidurg Panmaktha, Serilingampally Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, Hyderabad, Telangana

`The Government of Telangana is desirous of calling bids for sale of certain Government land parcels strategically located in Hyderabad's most-sought after location in Knowledge City Layout, Sy. No. 83/1, Raidurg Panmaktha, Serilingampally Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, Hyderabad, Telangana on **"As is where is Basis"** through **e-Auction.** TGIIC, on behalf of the Government of Telangana, invites bids for sale of the following land parcels through e-Auction.

e-AUCTION SCHEDULE

Sl. No.	Plot No.	Name of Village & Mandal	Sy. No.	Extent* (sq. yds.)	Geo- Location	Land Use	Upset Reserve Price (Rs. per sq. yd.)	Minimum Bid Increment per sq. yd. or Multiples thereof (in Rs.)	Pre-bid EMD (Rs. Crore)	Pre-bid Meeting at T-Hub, Raidurg, Hyderabad	Last date for Registration, Pre-bid EMD Payment and Bid Document Fee	Date of e-Auction
1.	14 A/1 & 14 B/1	Raidurg Panmaktha, Serilingampally (M)	83/1	~4,718.22		Multi-use	310,000	10,000	1.00	**22-10-2025** Time: 11:30 AM	**04-11-2025** Time: Till 5:00 PM	**10-11-2025** Time: 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM

** The land extent referenced above is provisional and indicative only. The exact land extent shall be determined by a joint survey to be carried out with the successful bidder .*

DATE OF NOTIFICATION: 16-10-2025

REGISTRATION FEE: Rs. 1,180/- *incl*. of GST (non-refundable)

BID DOCUMENT FEE: Rs. 10 Lakhs + *GST @ 18% (non-refundable)* **to be paid to TGIIC**

Details of e-brochure and other terms & conditions shall be available from **17-10-2025** at **https://www.tgiic.telangana.gov.in** and **https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/govts/index.jsp**

For further details on TGIIC Land Parcels for e-Auction: Log on to https://www.tgiic.telangana.gov.in
For Registration and e-Auction details and Participation log on to **https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/govts/index.jsp**

CONTACT INFORMATION

For Site Visit
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Smt. M Kavitha, Zonal Manager,
M: 99482 20512, zm-cyb-iic@telangana.gov.in

Service Provider: For queries on e-Auction process, registration with MSTC, payment of Pre-bid EMD
Shri. Siddharth Varadi, Manager,
M: 8801074754, hydopn1@mstcindia.in
Shri: Sai Dinesh Kumar T, Sr Assistant,
M: 7799570600; hyd@mstcindia.co.in

Transaction Advisor:
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M: 99123 99077; surya.balla@jll.com
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Sujith S – Senior Manager,
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ALL AT SEA

Bowled or lbw... the story of England's top seven batters

AP

In a bizarre record, the top seven England batters were either bowled or lbw in the World Cup match against Pakistan in Colombo. This is the first time it happened in, ODIs or T20s, women and men included. England lost five wickets during the PowerPlay for the first time after the ODI against Australia in 2019.

FRESH IDEAS

'Shorna's whirlwind knock has made us come up with some plans'

K.R. DEEPAK

Shorna Akter's whirlwind knock against South Africa has forced Australia to come up with ideas to counter the 18-year-old, admitted Annabel Sutherland. "She took the game on, which was a bit against the grain of the way the rest of the innings went. We've certainly had a look at her and come up with some plans," she said.

SIRAJSPEAK

Every wicket I took felt like a five-for on an unresponsive pitch

R.V. MOORTHY

Mohammed Siraj said every wicket he took in the second Test against the West Indies felt like a five-for on an unresponsive pitch. "When we played in Ahmedabad, there was some help. In New Delhi, every wicket (that I took) felt like five wickets. When you get rewarded for your efforts you gain a lot of confidence," Siraj added.

NEW HIGH

Kuldeep reaches career-best Test ranking after New Delhi heroics

AP

Kuldeep Yadav on Wednesday reached a career-best (14), jumping seven spots, in the ICC rankings for Test bowlers. The left-arm wrist spinner finished with an eight-wicket match haul in the second Test against the West Indies in New Delhi. In batting, Yashaswi Jaiswal moved up two slots to fifth.

Pakistan dominates, but rain rules the day

Fatima scythes through the England line-up, restricts the side to 133; the openers begin well in the chase before the heavens open up again

That's the way, Skip! Fatima struck at regular intervals to leave England in trouble. AFP

ODI WORLD CUP

Kavita Menon
COLOMBO

It was another day where Pakistan's bowlers stole the spotlight, channelling the frustration of its loss to Australia into a ruthless showing at the Women's ODI World Cup 2025 against England here.

The ominous dark clouds had the best seat in the house to witness the drama that unfolded at the R. Premadasa Stadium on Wednesday.

The handful of spectators watched Pakistan run the show before they were whisked away by the prolonged showers.

A baffled England fell victim to the ferocity of Pakistan's pace attack. Skipper Fatima Sana led the charge with lethal inswingers that wrecked the potent batting lineup.

Amy Jones and Nat Sciver-Brunt were undone by sharp nipbackers after Diana Baig had sent Tammy Beaumont back.

Heather Knight, having survived two close calls via reviews, couldn't escape a third. By the 25th over, England was reeling at 79 for seven, and the rains came as a blessing in disguise for the four-time champion.

If the plan was to weather the storm of pace before tackling spin, it backfired spectacularly.

England, shell-shocked during the PowerPlay, barely rotated strike – 36 of the first 54 runs came in boundaries, and its first single didn't arrive until the fourth over.

When the lethal left-arm orthodox pair of Sadia Iqbal and Nashra Sandhu was brought on, England was already in trouble. Iqbal struck in her second delivery, skittling Emma Lamb with an arm-ball.

Sophia Dunkley followed soon after, trapped leg before playing a premeditated sweep too late, while Alice Capsey fell in a similar fashion.

No one stayed long enough to attempt a recovery, and England's innings steadily unravelled under relentless pressure from Pakistan.

The nearly four-hour-long delay meant that, when the covers finally came off, the damp pitch slowed down further and offered uneven bounce.

However, Charlie Dean and debutant Em Arlott transcended the tricky conditions by swinging hard to gather easy runs. Their 47-run eighth-wicket partnership was comfortably England's highest of the innings.

Pakistan was 34 for no loss in the seventh over when another downpour sealed the fate of the contest.

The scores:
England 133/9 in 31 overs (Charlie Dean 33, Fatima Sana 4/27) vs. Pakistan 34/0 in 6.4 overs (DLS target: 113 in 31 overs). **No Result.**

Can Bangladesh give Australia a run for its money?

Anirudh Velamuri
VISAKHAPATNAM

Today's Match

Visakhapatnam, 3 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD ODIs
Played: 4
Australia: 4 | Bangladesh: 0

IN WORLD CUPS
Played: 1
Australia: 1 | Bangladesh: 0

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIOHOTSTAR

Australia and Bangladesh, the former chasing perfection and the latter yearning consistency, lock horns in a league clash of the women's World Cup at the ACA-VDCA Stadium here on Thursday.

The Aussies come into this contest on the back of the most successful chase in ODIs. While captain Alyssa Healy's century powered that win, the batting unit is yet to fire in unison so far.

Ashleigh Gardner and Beth Mooney registered triple-figure scores after collapses against New Zealand and Pakistan, respectively, to help Australia remain unbeaten so far. Annabel Sutherland admitted that the team is searching for the perfect game heading into the business end of the tournament.

While a batting track awaits the teams, bowlers have been able to extract seam movement and turn from the surface. On a day where more than 650 runs were scored, Sutherland and Shree Charani showed that the right line and length can stifle even the world's best.

Bangladesh, riding on its superior bowling arsenal, has put up heartening performances. Against South Africa, the batting too stepped up, even if the scoring rate left a lot to be desired.

In 18-year-old Shorna Akhter, the team has found a player whose power-hitting will give it confidence in setting a competitive target or chasing one down.

While the forecast predicts clear skies, heat and humidity will bring dew into play.

Will it be another case of so near yet so far for Bangladesh, or can Nigar Sultana's spirited side finally pull off an upset in this World Cup? A slow, tantalising cracker potentially awaits.

Linchpin: Bangladesh will place their hopes on Shorna's power-hitting skills to set or chase a competitive target. K.R. DEEPAK

Ahmedabad all set to host 2030 C'wealth Games

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

The Executive Board (EB) of Commonwealth Sport on Wednesday recommended Ahmedabad as the proposed host city for the 2030 Centenary Commonwealth Games.

Even though a press release said the final decision on this will be taken at the Commonwealth Sport General Assembly in Glasgow on November 26, it is likely to be a formality.

Ahmedabad, which is also in the race to bid for the 2036 Olympics, and Nigerian capital Abuja had submitted their proposals to host the 2030 Games.

Following a detailed process overseen by the Commonwealth Sport Evaluation Committee, which assessed candidate cities against a wide range of criteria, Ahmedabad was chosen over Abuja.

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and Commonwealth Games Association India (CGAI) president P.T. Usha said, "The Games would not only showcase India's world-class sporting and event capabilities, but also play a meaningful role in our journey towards Viksit Bharat 2047."

Sporting hub: Ahmedabad will be abuzz with activity. PTI

All eyes on McIlroy in a star-studded field

GOLF

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

Rory McIlroy will be the cynosure of all eyes when he tees off from the 10th hole at the historic Delhi Golf Club for the $4 million DP World India Championships here on Thursday morning.

The five-time Major champion headlines a field that includes Ryder Cup European teammates Shane Lowry and Tommy Fleetwood, his captain Luke Donald and a host of world-class players including Viktor Hovland and Ben Griffin.

Of these, Fleetwood and Lowry are perhaps the only two who have been to India before - Fleetwood played at the Indian Open in 2016 and Lowry further back in 2010, when he played the Avantha Masters. Since then, both players have had a successful career and come into the week with not just the Ryder Cup trophy under their belts but also ranked fifth and 25th in the world.

However, it won't be an easy outing for McIlroy on a course that some describe as 'claustrophobic' for its narrow lines with little scope for error. "I guess the immediate thing I'm hoping for right now is to play good first two days and at least be here for the weekend and hopefully enjoy the weekend after that," McIlroy admitted.

In the mix will also be 26 Indians, including Anirban Lahiri, Shiv Kapur and Shubhankar Sharma, golfers who have had a lot of experience on the course and hoping to use the home advantage in their search for a DP Tour title.

Strategy: McIlroy said that playing smart and being patient would be the key at the DGC. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

I don't think I'll use the driver: McIlroy

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

Rory McIlroy is undoubtedly a legend. One of only six men to win a 'career Grand Slam' (winning all the Majors) and the only European to do so, the Irishman is often considered the greatest European golfer of all times and one of the greatest in the golfing world.

But the reigning Masters champion and World No. 2 continues to be excited about new experiences and challenges, the latest being his maiden visit to India for the DP World India Championships that gets underway on Thursday at the historic Delhi Golf Club here.

"India is a country that I've wanted to travel to for a long time. It's a very vibrant place. I'm excited to play in a place that I've never played before. Eighteen-odd years into a professional career and to still be able to do things for the first time is something that excites me. I've watched tournaments on this course over years and the course certainly lives up to its reputation," McIlroy said in his first media interaction since landing in the city.

He agreed with the general consensus that playing smart and being patient would be the key at the DGC. "I don't think I'll hit a driver this week. I don't feel the risk is worth the reward. You're hitting it into jungle and you're not going to be able to get it out. You can rack up a very big number very quickly. Being strategic and being smart with your play, off the tee especially, is very important," McIlroy, who is a big driver, admitted.

Currently the Race to Dubai leader (for the season-ending Finals) is grouped alongside Ryder Cup-winning teammate Viktor Hovland and two-time PGA Tour winner Ben Griffin over the first two days in the competition.

McIlroy is also keen to experience cricket in the most cricket-mad country in the world.

"I'd love to go and watch a cricket match. I don't think there's anything on until next month. I'd love to come back and do that. I love sitting down and watching Test matches."

"I would like bring back the family and experience Taj Mahal together. There's so much to see in India. It's such a big country," said McIlroy.

India will look back with satisfaction at a job well done

WEST INDIES IN INDIA

Vivek Krishnan

Full of joy: Gill's men had plenty to cheer about in the series against West Indies. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

It is symbolic of the manic schedule for India's cricketers right now that a day after winning the two-Test series against the West Indies at home, they have embarked on a white-ball tour of Australia comprising three ODIs and five T20Is.

Shubman Gill, who has just claimed his maiden Test series win as skipper, will be in charge of the ODI team for the first time when India plays Australia in Perth on October 19. Amid this hectic calendar, there may be very little time to pause and reflect, especially when the attention has to swiftly shift to the shorter formats.

But before Gill and coach Gautam Gambhir look ahead, they should look back with satisfaction at a job well done against West Indies. Sure, Roston Chase's men may not have made for the strongest opposition, but it is pertinent to remember that this Indian team is still in a phase of transition. The opening Test in Ahmedabad, in fact, was India's first at home since 2011 without either Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma or R. Ashwin in action. In the circumstances, it was fitting that Ravindra Jadeja, now the longest-serving member of the Test team, finished as the Player-of-the-Series for his all-round contribution. Kuldeep Yadav, meanwhile, stated his case with eight scalps in the second Test.

But with India's objective from this series revolving around how the younger players fare ahead of next month's two Tests against South Africa, it was particularly B. Sai Sudharsan and Nitish Kumar that were watched with keen interest. When the left-hander from Tamil Nadu faltered in Ahmedabad, there was bound to be pressure. But he gave a better account of himself in the national capital by contributing 87 and 39. It should be enough for Sai Sudharsan to take guard at No. 3 when South Africa visits.

Nitish's case is more curious. Having been picked for both Tests, he played a bit-part role at best. The 22-year-old delivered just four wicketless overs in the opener, and then scored 43 at No. 5 in the second Test. In the post-match press conference on Tuesday, Gambhir was clear that the team management will be patient with the all-rounder.

"For me, it is not important how many overs he bowled. It is important that he is gaining experience. Sometimes, you learn a lot just by playing a game.

"It is important to groom someone like Nitish because you know that there are not many seam bowling all-rounders. So, whenever we get that opportunity, we will keep grooming him," he said.

INBRIEF

Noman's 10-wicket haul gives Pakistan 1-0 lead

Left-arm spinner Noman Ali was South Africa's chief tormentor as Pakistan won a gripping first Test by 93 runs in Lahore on Wednesday. Set a daunting 277-run target for victory, the visitors and World Test champions were bowled out for 183 on day four. Noman finished with four for 79 and ten for 191 in the match for his third haul of ten wickets or more in Tests.

The scores: Pakistan 378 & 167 bt South Africa 269 & 183 in 46.1 overs (Brevis 54, Rickelton 45, Noman 4/79, Shaheen 4/33). **PoM:** Noman Ali.

Chennai Blitz outlasts Ahmedabad Defenders

Chennai Blitz bounced back to get the better of Ahmedabad Defenders 15-10, 10-15, 15-11, 12-15, 15-13 in a Prime Volleyball League match in Hyderabad on Wednesday. Jerome Vinith was named the player of the match. The thrilling contest saw the momentum shifting till the last minute, until Chennai managed to hold on to script a win to climb to sixth position with six points from five games.

Bengal Warriorz pips Telugu Titans in a thriller

Bengal Warriorz fought back to register a thrilling win over Telugu Titans in a tie-breaker after the teams were tied at 45-45 in a PKL-12 match in New Delhi on Wednesday. Devank completed his 14th Super-10 of the season in a closely-fought contest that went down to the wire, with both teams putting up a strong fight. In the end, the Warriorz held their nerve to win. Later, Puneri Paltan outplayed Jaipur Pink Panthers 57-33.

South Africa, Ivory Coast and Senegal qualify for 2026 WC

Ivory Coast, Senegal and South Africa on Tuesday completed the list of group winners in African qualification and the line-up of nine automatic qualifiers for next year's FIFA World Cup. Ivory Coast beat Kenya 3-0 at home in Abidjan to finish one point ahead of Gabon in Group F, while Sadio Mane's double put Senegal on course for a 4-0 win over Mauritania in Dakar and a two-point lead over runner-up Democratic Republic of Congo in Group B. South Africa topped Group C.

The results: Group B: Senegal 4 (Mane 45+1, 48, Ndiaye 64, Diallo 85) bt Mauritania 0. **Group C:** South Africa 3 (Mbatha 5, Appollis 26, Makgopa 72) Rwanda 0. **Group F:** Ivory Coast 3 (Kessie 7, Diomande 54, Diallo 85) Kenya 0.

Five-star England books flight to the Americas

England became the first country from Europe to qualify for the 2026 FIFA World Cup on Tuesday. England won 5-0 at Latvia, with captain Harry Kane scoring twice in the first half, to assure first place in its group with two matches to spare. The English, who will be appearing at an eighth straight World Cup, haven't conceded a goal in six matches in qualifying so far under Thomas Tuchel. Spain moved a step closer to qualifying with a 4-0 win over Bulgaria. Cristiano Ronaldo (40) set a new record for World Cup qualifying goals, but Hungary grabbed a late 2-2 draw to stop Portugal from reaching next summer's tournament with two games to spare.

The results: Group E: Spain 4 (Merino 35, 57, Chernev 79-og, Oyarzabal 90+2-pen) bt Bulgaria 0; Turkiye 4 (Yildiz 14, Demiral 22, 52, Akgun 35) bt Georgia 1 (Kochorashvili 64). **F:** Republic of Ireland 1 (Ferguson 70) bt Armenia 0; Portugal 2 (Ronaldo 22, 45+3) drew with Hungary 2 (Szalai 8, Szoboszlai 90+1). **I:** Estonia 1 (Kait 12) drew with Moldova 1 (Bodisteanu 64); Italy 3 (Retegui 45+2-pen, 74, Mancini 90+3) bt Israel 0. **K:** Latvia 0 lost to England 5 (Gordon 26, Kane 44, 45+4-pen, Tonisevs 58-og, Eze 86); Andorra 1 (Lopez 17) lost to Serbia 3 (Garcia 19-og, Vlahovic 54, Mitrovic 77-pen).

LIVE TELECAST

Women's ODI World Cup: Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 3 p.m.
PVL: Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 6.30 p.m.
PKL: : Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 8 p.m.

Padikkal, Karun shore up Karnataka

Smaran weighs in with a half-century as visiting team finishes day one at 295 for five; spinner Dharmendra picks up four wickets

RANJI TROPHY

Tarun Shastry
RAJKOT

A blend of youthful ambition and experienced composure was on full display as Devdutt Padikkal (96, 141b, 11x4) and Karun Nair (73, 126b, 9x4) combined for a crucial 146-run third-wicket stand to steer Karnataka to 295 for five at stumps on the opening day of the Ranji Trophy Group B match against Saurashtra at the Niranjan Shah Stadium here on Wednesday.

After electing to bat on a bright and sunny morning, skipper Mayank Agarwal and his opening partner S. Nikin Jose soon found themselves under pressure, as Saurashtra's pacers – captain Jaydev Unadkat and Chetan Sakariya – bowled disciplined lines and the perfect lengths.

Sensing the batters' eagerness to break free, Unadkat's decision to introduce spin early paid off. Left-arm spinner Dharmendra Jadeja struck twice, removing both openers – Mayank in the 10th over and Nikin in the 14th – leaving Karnataka in a precarious position at 26 for two.

Padikkal and Karun adopted a patient approach to stabilise the innings. The duo rotated strike effectively and found the occasional boundary to keep the scoreboard ticking. Once they got their eye in, the pair began to score freely, consistently piercing the gaps and putting the pressure back on the home side.

Padikkal was especially severe on anything short, coming up with delicate cuts and powerful pulls, while Karun manoeuvered the strike smartly as both batters reached their half-centuries.

Against the run of play, Dharmendra Jadeja broke the partnership, trapping Karun plumb in front, before claiming his fourth wicket by castling Padikkal, who fell agonizingly short of his century.

K.L. Shrijith's stay at the crease was short-lived but R. Smaran (66 batting, 120b, 4x4, 2x6) and Shreyas Gopal (38 batting, 69b, 2x4, 2x6) added 81 runs for the sixth wicket and took the visitors to 295 for five at close of play.

The scores:

Karnataka — 1st innings: S. Nikin Jose c Ansh b Dharmendra Jadeja 12, Mayank Agarwal c Chetan b Dharmendra Jadeja 2, Devdutt Padikkal b Dharmendra Jadeja 96, Karun Nair lbw b Dharmendra Jadeja 73, R. Smaran 66 (batting), K.L. Shrijith c Harvik b Yuvrajsinh 5, Shreyas Gopal 38 (batting); Extras: (nb-1, b-1, lb-1): 3; Total for five wickets (in 90 overs): 295.

Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-26, 3-172, 4-195, 5-214.

Saurashtra bowling: Unadkat 14-2-36-0, Chetan 12-3-21-0, Dharmendra 30-3-100-4, Chirag 3-1-5-0, Prerak 3-1-14-0, Yuvrajsinh 19-2-79-1, Samar 9-0-38-0.

Classy effort: Padikkal hit 11 boundaries in his knock of 96. VIJAY SONEJI

Singles are more important than sixes, says Kishan

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
COIMBATORE

Jharkhand skipper Ishan Kishan reflected on learning from past mistakes and prioritizing the team's needs over personal instincts after his assured 125 against Tamil Nadu in the Ranji Trophy here on Wednesday. His unbeaten knock placed his team in a safe net after the loss of quick wickets.

"When you play enough matches, you understand that sometimes singles are more important than sixes. Over a period of time, your mindset changes.

"When you grow up, you make so many mistakes initially in your career. And then, later, you realize the real meaning of experience. You have to be in the middle, then only you can change the game.

"I really wanted to go hard on the left-arm spinner (D.T. Chandrasekar). But again, I was just looking at the scoreboard and those six wickets down did not feel right for me (Jharkhand finished the day on 307 for six from 157 for six). You know, one mistake...

"I just played an Irani Cup match and I think I made the same mistake there. I could have batted till the end and we could have been on the winning side. So, I did not want to repeat that mistake here in the Ranji Trophy, where your team needs you the most because you are the most experienced player," he said.

On his India comeback amidst heavy competition and the importance of this Ranji season for it, he said, "Maturity is when you understand that wherever you are is the most important place. These matches will only help me get to the Indian team.

"My mindset was pretty different two years ago. But right now, I feel at this stage, you need to be very smart of what you are doing. You need to understand the importance of Ranji Trophy especially when you play against big teams."

RANJI SCORES - ROUND 1 (DAY 1)

Elite: Group A: At Kanpur: Andhra 289/3 in 85.5 overs (K.S. Bharat 142, Shaik Rasheed 94 batting) vs Uttar Pradesh. **Toss:** Andhra.
Coimbatore: Jharkhand 307/6 in 90 overs (Sharandeep Singh 48, Ishan Kishan 125 batting, Sahil Raj 64 batting) vs Tamil Nadu. **Toss:** Jharkhand.
Cuttack: Odisha 205/5 in 89.5 overs (Subhranshu Senapati 79, Rajesh Dhuper 76 batting) vs Baroda. **Toss:** Odisha.
Bengaluru: Vidarbha 302/3 in 85 overs (Aman Mokhade 148 batting, Dhruv Shorey 64, Yash Rathod 66 batting) vs Nagaland. **Toss:** Nagaland.
Group B: Rajkot: Karnataka 295/5 in 90 overs (Devdutt Padikkal 96, Karun Nair 73, R. Smaran 66 batting, Dharmendrasinh Jadeja 4/100) vs Saurashtra. **Toss:** Karnataka.
Thiruvananthapuram: Maharashtra 179/7 in 59 overs (Ruturaj Gaikwad 91, Jalaj Saxena 49, M.D. Nidheesh 4/42) vs Kerala. **Toss:** Kerala.
Porvorim: Goa 291/3 in 86 overs (Suyash Prabhudessai 47, Abhinav Tejrana 130 batting, Lalit Yadav 80 batting) vs Chandigarh. **Toss:** Goa.
Indore: Punjab 232 in 84.3 overs (Uday Saharan 75, Saransh Jain 6/75) vs Madhya Pradesh 6/0 in three overs. **Toss:** Punjab.
Group C: Surat: Haryana 171 in 55.1 overs (Parth Vats 52) vs Railways 93/6 in 32 overs (Sumit Kumar 4/11). **Toss:** Haryana.
Kolkata: Uttarakhand 213 in 72.5 overs (Bhupen Lalwani 71, Suraj Sindhu Jaiswal 4/54) vs Bengal 8/1 in five overs. **Toss:** Bengal.
Ahmedabad: Assam 218/6 in 90 overs (Pradyun Saikia 70, Riyan Parag 40) vs Gujarat. **Toss:** Assam.
Delhi: Services 246/6 in 85 overs (Shivam Kumar 72, Ravi Chauhan 50, Nakul Sharma 64 batting) vs Tripura. **Toss:** Services.
Group D: Hyderabad: Delhi 256/3 in 83 overs (Sanat Sangwan 91 batting, Ayush Badoni 53, Ayush Doseja 97 batting) vs Hyderabad. **Toss:** Hyderabad.
Rajsamand: Chhattisgarh 287/7 in 87 overs (Ashutosh Singh 44, Ajay Jadav Mandal 116 batting, Aditya Sarwate 43, Vashudev Bareth 46 batting) vs Rajasthan. **Toss:** Rajasthan.
Srinagar: Mumbai 336/5 in 83 overs (Siddhesh Lad 116, Sarfaraz Khan 42, Shams Mulani 79 batting) vs Jammu & Kashmir. **Toss:** J & K.
Puducherry: Himachal Pradesh 176/5 in 60 overs (Ekant Sen 50, Mayank Dagar 82 batting) vs Pondicherry. **Toss:** Himachal Pradesh.
Plate: Patna: Arunachal Pradesh 105 in 32.3 overs (Sakib Hussain 6/41) vs Bihar 283/2 in 52 overs (Arnav Kishor 52, Ayush Loharuka 155 batting, Sakibul Gani 56 batting). **Toss:** Arunachal Pradesh.
Rangpo: Sikkim 265/7 in 90 overs (Gurinder Singh 83, Kranthi Kumar 75, Bishworjit Konthoujam 4/51) vs Manipur. **Toss:** Sikkim.
Shillong: Meghalaya vs Mizoram (no play).

Bharat (Andhra, 142). FILE PHOTO: SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

No stopping the Chinese

Class acts: The Wangs brought out their best in their title matches. BISWARANJAN ROUT

ASIAN TT

Amol Karhadkar
BHUBANESWAR

China stamped its authority over the 28th Asian table tennis team championship by completing a commanding double here on Wednesday. Soon after the women's team avenged its 2024 final defeat to Japan in Astana (Kazakhstan) by recording a comprehensive 3-0 win, the Chinese men's side brushed aside Hong Kong (China) with an identical margin in a one-sided final to clinch its 25th continental crown.

In the women's final, World No. 2 Wang Manyu was stretched early by Japan's defensive specialist Honoka Hashimoto. After conceding the opening game, Wang adjusted her strategy by targeting the centre line, cramping Hashimoto for room and dictating the rallies to give China the lead.

World No. 1 Sun Yingsha then gave a masterclass in pace and precision, dismantling Miwa Harimoto in straight games to place China on the brink. World No. 4 Kuai Man completed the formalities, recovering from a game down against left-handed Hina Hayata to seal China's record-extending 20th women's team title.

Later, the men's team ensured a fitting finale. After surviving a tense semifinal against Japan, China was clinical against Hong Kong (China), dropping just one game.

In the opening rubber, World No. 1 Wang Chuqin was briefly tested by the in-form Chan Baldwin, who matched him for speed and placement early on before Wang's class prevailed.

Liang Jingkun, the hero of China's semifinal win, then sealed the title with another dominant display, triggering joint celebrations as both teams shared a proud moment on the podium. With the double triumph, China reaffirmed its undisputed supremacy in Asian table tennis – and underlined that its next generation remains as formidable as ever.

The results: Final: Women: China bt Japan 3-0 (Wang Manyu bt Honoka Hashimoto 10-12, 11-3, 11-6, 11-3; Sun Yingsha bt Miwa Harimoto 11-9, 11-5, 11-7; Kuai Man bt Hina Hayata 8-11, 12-10, 11-6, 11-9).

Men: China bt Hong Kong (China) 3-0 (Lin Shidong bt Wong Chun Ting 11-8, 11-4, 11-4, Wang Chuqin bt Chan Baldwin 12-10, 11-9, 5-11, 14-12, Liang Jingkun bt Yiu Kwan Go 13-11, 11-6, 12-10).

Tanvi, Rakshitha and Unnati enter pre-quarterfinals

BADMINTON

Nihit Sachdeva
GUWAHATI

Three Indians girls hadn't reached the last-16 stage at the same edition of the BWF World junior badminton championships in more than a decade.

The wait ended on Wednesday at the National Center of Excellence when Tanvi Sharma and Rakshitha Sree Santhosh Ramraj survived a few moments of jeopardy while Unnati Hooda gave a flawless performance.

Top seed Tanvi, up against Oei Louisa Jovanka Sandi Winarto of Indonesia, had a mini-slump after racing to a 9-4 lead.

The 16-year-old Indian got into her own head and a flurry of unforced errors meant Winarto won eight straight points.

With the tournament following a best-of-three games with each game up to 15, Tanvi got back into the rhythm just in time to secure a 15-12, 15-7 win.

Rakshitha took time to adjust to the drift before taking down Singapore's Aaliyah Zakaria 11-15, 15-5, 15-8, while Unnati knocked out American Alice Wang 15-8, 15-5 in 16 minutes.

However, in boys' singles, Tankara Gnana Dattu Talasila was the sole survivor.

The 17-year-old tightened his game after conceding the opener to beat compatriot Suryaksh Rawat 11-15, 15-6, 15-11.

With former Olympic and World Champion Chen Long in the coach's corner, Li Zhi Hang, another relatively unknown Chinese quantity, eliminated 11th-seed Rounak Chouhan with a 15-11, 15-12 scoreline.

In another match, H. Lalthazuala went down 13-15, 6-15 to UAE's Riyan Malhan.

Bouncing back: Bhargav and Viswa rallied to enter the last 16. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Other results (round-of-32):
Mixed doubles: Bhavya Chhabra & Vishakha Toppo bt Aske Romer & Jasmin Willis (Den) 15-13, 15-11; Shuji Sawada & Aoi Banno (Jpn) bt C. Lalramsanga & Taarini Suri 15-10, 15-6.
Boys' doubles: Bhargav Ram Arigela & Viswa Tej Gobburu bt Shunki Hagiwara & Mahiro Matsumoto (Jpn) 11-15, 15-10, 15-10.
Girls' doubles: Aanya Bisht & Angel Punera bt Hui Hsin Huang & Pei Chun Tsai (Tpe) 16-14, 12-15, 15-5; Vennala Kalagotla & Reshika Uthayasooriyan bt Sayaka Enomoto & Miku Yashima (Jpn) 15-8, 15-10; Tan Ke Xuan & Wei Yue Yue (Chn) bt Gayatri Rawat & Mansa Rawat 15-6, 15-7.

Meropi primed to deliver in the Mysore Dasara Sprint Championship

RACING

MYSURU: Meropi, who has been well prepared, is expected to score in the Mysore Dasara Sprint Championship (1,200m), the chief event of the races to be held here on Thursday (Oct 16). False rails (width about 5.5m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1 LOKAPAVANI PLATE (1,400m), rated 00 to 25, 2-00 p.m.: 1. Noble Pursuit (4) Prabhu K 62.5, 2. She Rules (10) Laxman S 62, 3. Armament (11) Abhishek Mhatre 61, 4. The Whispering (6) Ramesh K 60, 5. Turkoman (9) Mukesh K 60, 6. Lead Singer (7) R. Pradeep 59, 7. Shock And Awe (5) Darshan 59, 8. Feronia (3) Rajesh K 58.5, 9. Article Fifteen (2) A. Baandal 56.5, 10. Exemplary Blues (1) R. Shiva K 56.5 and 11. Southernaristocrat (8) Faiz 55.
1. SOUTHERNARISTOCRAT
2. TURKOMAN
3. SHOCK AND AWE

2 ORIGINAL VEL RACING TROPHY (DIV. II), (1,200m), rated 40 to 65, 5-y-o & over, 2-30: 1. Sheeba (1) Pavan 60, 2. Serai (4) Antony 59.5, 3. Ignorance Is Bliss (8) Abhishek Mhatre 59, 4. Sea Of Adventure (7) Sai Kiran 58, 5. Sparkling Night (3) Brijesh K 58, 6. Choice (6) Faiz 57, 7. Thewhisperquietly (5) Afsar Khan 56 and 8. Biometric (2) Ayaz Khan 55.5.
1. SERAI, 2. SEA OF ADVENTURE, 3. BIOMETRIC

3 URS KAR TROPHY (DIV. I), (1,400m), rated 40 to 65, 3-00: 1. Sir Calculus (1) L.A. Rozario 61, 2. Little Minister (5) S. Imran 60.5, 3. Ultimate Blues (2) Arvind K 60, 4. Rapidus (7) M. Prabhakaran 57.5, 5. Miraculous Girl (3) Gautam Raj 56.5, 6. True Punch (6) Antony 56.5, 7. Reign Of Terror (8) Faiz 55.5 and 8. Ladylion (4) R. Pradeep 55.
1. TRUE PUNCH
2. LADYLION
3. LITTLE MINISTER

4 H.H. SRI CHAMARAJA WADIYAR MEMORIAL CUP (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 3-30: 1. Isabelle (10) Pavan 61, 2. Polar Wind (1) Faiz 61, 3. Absolute Conquerer (11) Prabhu K 59.5, 4. Flying Falcon (3) Abhishek Mhatre 59.5, 5. Planet Super (8) S. Mubarak 58, 6. Phoenix Gold (5) Salman Khan 56, 7. My Life My Rules (6) I. Chisty 55.5, 8. Sienna Princess (2) Afsar Khan 54, 9. Glory Of Heaven (9) B. Dharshan 53, 10. Major Saab (7) R. Shiva K 53, 11. She's So Beautiful (4) H. Rahul 53 and 12. Aries Celestial (12) Akash Agarwal 52.
1. SIENNA PRINCESS
2. MY LIFE MY RULES
3. ISABELLE

5 MYSORE DASARA SPRINT CHAMPIONSHIP (1,200m), 3-y-o & over, (Terms), 4-00: 1. Tom Cruiser (5) Vinod Shinde 60, 2. Meropi (1) Trevor 58.5, 3. Aldgate (4) Antony 57, 4. Decacorn (2) Hindu S 57, 5. Imperial Blue (3) Arvind K 57 and 6. Pure For Sure (6) I. Chisty 55.5.
1. MEROPI
2. IMPERIAL BLUE

6 ORIGINAL VEL RACING TROPHY (DIV. I), (1,200m), rated 40 to 65, 5-y-o & over, 4-30: 1. Aurele (8) Abhishek Mhatre 60, 2. Court Jester (1) Faiz 59, 3. Mandolin (5) Noorulla 58.5, 4. Natural Tornado (2) Ankit Pal 58, 5. Sound Of Canon's (6) Asirvatham 58, 6. Cloudy Hills (7) Aleemuddin 57, 7. Kenna (3) Salman Khan 56 and 8. O Manchali (4) Antony 55.
1. O MANCHALI
2. NATURAL TORNADO
3. COURT JESTER

7 URS KAR TROPHY (DIV. II), (1,400m), rated 40 to 65, 5-00: 1. Mind Games (7) Pavan 60, 2. Swaghatham (8) H. Rahul 59, 3. Sherpa (3) A. Baandal 58.5, 4. Chotipari (4) Laxman S 58, 5. N R I Victory (5) I. Chisty 58, 6. Mystikos (1) Trevor 57.5, 7. Silicon Star (2) Antony 57 and 8. Park West (6) Sai Kiran 55.
1. MYSTIKOS
2. SILICON STAR
3. N R I VICTORY
Day's best: MEROPI
Double: SERAI – MYSTIKOS
Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7; Mini Jkt: 4, 5, 6 and 7; Tr (i): 2, 3 and 4; (ii): 5, 6 and 7.

ROUND-UP

Agniputhra holds FC Real Bengaluru

BENGALURU: S.M. Iqbal Hussain scored a late equaliser to earn FC Agniputhra a 2-2 draw against FC Real Bengaluru in the KSFA Super Division League Championship on Wednesday.
The results: FC Agniputhra 2 (Azrfar Noorani 51, S.M. Iqbal Hassan 90+2) drew with FC Real Bengaluru 2 (Ajay Alex Anthony 49, Syed Ahamed 58); Kickstart FC 1 (Dawn Carlos 17) bt Bangalore City FC 0.

Pavan nets five

Pavan scored five times as SWR, Hubballi thrashed DYES, Ballari 13-2 in the Hockey Karnataka League Championship.
The results: SWR, Hubballi 13 (Pavan 1, 19, 52, 54, 56, N. Kumar 9, Jayavanth 21, Faran 26, K.P. Somanna 37, K.R. Bharath 43, C.S. Shamanth 45, Sanjeev Kumar 58, Veeranna G. Patil 60) bt DYES, Ballari 2 (Hampaiah 22, 38); Canara Bank 3 (Hari Rama 11, K.P. Somaiah 32, B.M. Likhith 39) bt Postal 1 (H.T. Ramesh 24).

Coming up: World c'ship in Total Chess

P.K. Ajith Kumar

Norway Chess and the world chess governing body FIDE are joining hands for a new tour and to identify one more new World champion. Chess already has World champions in the classical, rapid and blitz formats and now there would be one in total chess as well.

The CEO of Norway Chess, Kjell Madland, told *The Hindu* that the pilot of the new tournament will be held next year and the first World championship tour in the format in 2027. "The new tour will have games played in all the three formats - classical, rapid and blitz - and it will have four legs to be played in four venues," he said over the phone on Wednesday.

Dvorkovich and Madland signing the MoU.

"The classical format will be of lesser time duration than normal, though: it will be 45 minutes, with increment, and it will be rated as a classical game. The time could even go up to 60 minutes instead of 45." Madland said the world's leading players would be part of the tour.

"We have spoken to the players and they are all interested in this format," he said. "The players will qualify for the tour through various routes."

There will be a minimum of $750,000 for each of the first three events. The finals, which will decide the champion, will have a prize-money of at least $450,000 in a four-player field.

FIDE president Arkady Dvorkovich said the Total Chess World Championship Tour was another great addition to the tradition of the World championship.

"We hope the tournament can captivate both the existing chess fans and new audiences," he said.

"These championships will complement each other. This is not a short-term initiative, but a long-term agreement between FIDE and Norway Chess."

Madland said India was a potential venue for one of the legs of the inaugural World Total Chess Tour. "We would be delighted to partner with organisers in India," he said.

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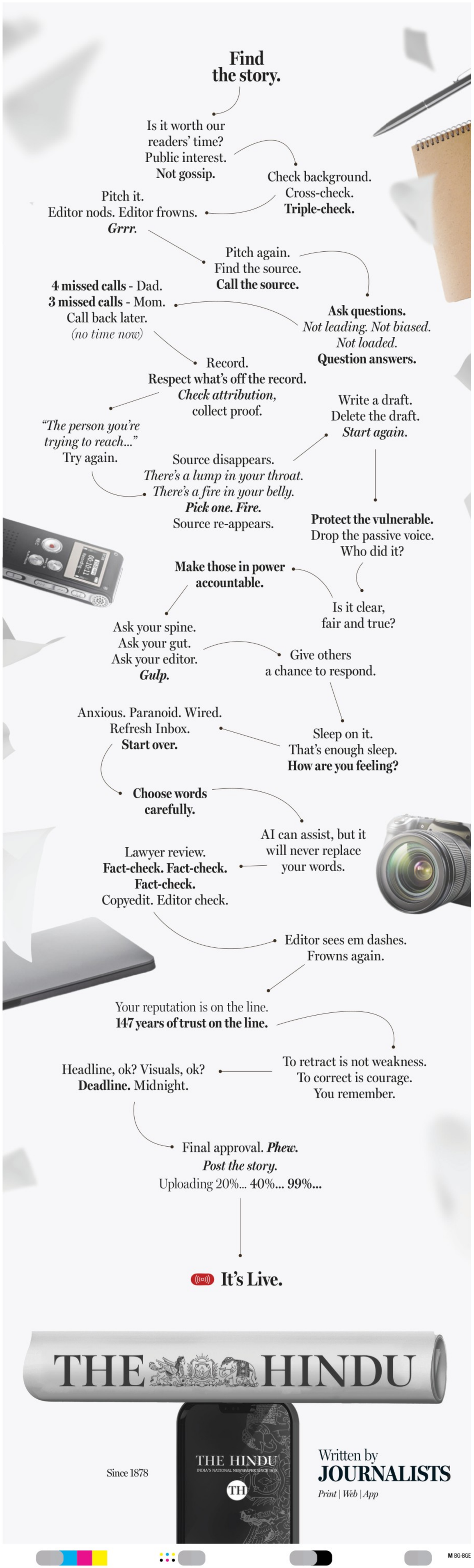

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